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Reservist Shmuel Be'eri is helped from his car yesterday in Ramallah, after he was attacked by a mob when he took a wrong turn and got stuck in traffic. Story, Page 2. (Khaled Zighari)

Shohat won't resign if capital gains tax is cancelled

Coalition defeats bill to abolish tax

WHETHER the capital gains tax goes ahead as planned or not, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat says he will stay on the job.

Speaking at the Builders and Contractors Association annual convention in Jerusalem yesterday, Shohat dismissed rumors that he would resign if the tax is not imposed beginning next year.

"Despite the big newspaper headlines, I intend to be at your convention next year as finance minister," Shohat said.

At the Knesset yesterday, the coalition banded together to defeat a bill aimed at abolishing the tax, 36-26, even though many Labor Party MKs have expressed opposition to the legislation, to take effect in two weeks.

Shohat chided his colleagues for their obsession with the tax, instead of focusing on the really important news, such as the fact that for the first time since 1991, the number of job-seekers dropped below 100,000.

Sticking to his guns, he criticized the electoral considerations that have been used by tax opponents.

"Zigzagging on the issue, speculating as to what will happen in November 1996, and flinching because of political intrigue and fears, all mean fleeing responsibility," Shohat declared. "The leadership of a country is evaluated according to its determination, its backbone, and its trustworthiness. Popularity ratings and political intrigues should not

JOSE ROSENFELD
 and DAN IZENBERG

determine what needs to be done."

To those claiming that the time is not propitious for imposing the tax, Shohat retorted, "It's all nonsense. Whoever doesn't want the tax will never find the proper timing."

Later, speaking at the Knesset plenum, Shohat expanded on the theme.

"A government and political parties which do not stand behind basic decisions, a government and political parties which act according to public opinion polls, governments like these cannot run the affairs of state," he said, addressing his own party rather than the opposition.

"Some people [who oppose the law] are genuinely concerned, others have interests which have nothing to do with the tax. Some ministers are genuinely concerned, others are motivated by completely extraneous considerations."

He noted that the desire of the Japanese to invest in the stock market derives from the country's economic performance and said the tax considerations are irrelevant.

The stock market remained buoyant yesterday, as prices rose on a wide front. The Two-Sided Index rose by 0.9%, the Maof 0.8%, and the Karam 2.7%. Turnover was somewhat higher than usual, at NIS 124.5 million. (Full report, Page 9)

Despite attempts to stay out of the political fray, the Bank of

Israel was forced to break its silence and came out in support of the capital gains tax after reports appeared that it opposed it. Governor Jacob Frenkel said the central bank has supported the tax for many years and that he supports it.

A Gallup poll, commissioned by Israel Radio and published yesterday, showed that only 36 percent of those polled said they oppose the tax, while 32% support it, and 32% said they did not know.

Even among those who invested in the stock market this year, the opposition to the tax was less than unanimous: 58% of investors oppose the tax, 30% support it, and 12% are undecided.

The poll's most surprising finding was that the wealthier a respondent is, the more he supports the tax.

Overshadowing the debate between the opposition and the coalition over the anti-tax bill, however, was the debate within the Labor Party over whether to implement the tax.

Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet, one of tax's leading opponents in the cabinet, said he had voted against the bill because he wanted the government to be responsible for shelving the law, not the Likud.

Shohat said he would do everything possible to make sure the law takes effect as scheduled on January 1.

He later told Channel One he would not contact Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the Far East to seek his support, as the tax had been passed by the Knesset.

US urges positive Israeli signal on NPT

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE US would prefer that Israel signal its intention to at least consider signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in the future, a senior Clinton administration official said yesterday.

He said this would encourage Egypt and other non-aligned states, including Arab nations, to commit themselves to the NPT extension when it comes up for renewal in April, he said.

Egypt has been urging other Arab countries to consider not signing the extension, nor the chemical weapons treaty, unless Israel first commits itself to NPT.

The US has begun to mobilize on this issue. Just two weeks ago, Thomas Graham, deputy director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, paid a quiet visit here, as well as to Egypt, to discuss this issue. CIA Director James Woolsey also visited the region about the

same time.

The NPT extension will apparently be on Vice President Al Gore's agenda, when he visits both countries next month. The Gore visit, which has yet to be officially announced, is ostensibly to help Cairo better use its \$2.3 billion in US assistance.

The administration official stressed that the US is not insisting Israel sign NPT now. "We would like an indication that Israel is ready to discuss this issue at some point in the future. We certainly are sensitive to Israel's concerns now."

He said should Israel demonstrate "some movement" on this issue, it would be "preferable to the collision course we are now on with Egypt."

Israel, Pakistan, and India are among the few states which have refused to sign NPT. The treaty includes a commitment to open

up facilities for international inspection. Jerusalem has charged that signing NPT is not a guarantee of anything, since Iraq is a signatory but nonetheless tried to acquire nuclear weapons.

Graham said the US has not given up on Israel joining NPT.

"The prospects for Israel joining NPT become enhanced by the strength of the NPT regime and its durability. So the US would argue that if the treaty is made permanent, the chances are better for Israel eventually joining NPT," he told a Tuesday press conference in Washington.

"We think that the NPT is very important to the security of Egypt," he added. "We understand their regional concerns, and we are trying to work with them to reach a solution to their concerns that will permit them to support making the NPT permanent and which will look to

the future, as well, in the direction of universality of membership and a solution to the significant regional issues about which they are concerned."

Egypt has made Israel's signing of NPT as rallying call among other Arab and Third World countries. Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly on September 30, Foreign Minister Amre Moussa said Cairo attached "great importance to the fact that Israel must rapidly undertake this step, as we are approaching the date of the conference for the review and extension of NPT in 1995."

Batsheva Tsour adds:

President Ezer Weizman will pay a three-day state visit to Egypt next week. The visit was arranged following assurances that President Hosni Mubarak would make a reciprocal visit in the near future. The date is expected to be set during Weizman's visit.

Hussein abruptly leaves Islamic summit

News agencies

KING Hussein of Jordan quietly slipped out of Morocco yesterday, abandoning an Islamic summit meeting after disputes with the Palestinians over the administration of holy sites in Jerusalem.

Hussein left Prime Minister Abdel-Salam Majali as head of Jordan's delegation.

Officials who attended the four-hour, closed-door meeting said Hussein decided to leave after Muslim leaders turned down his request that a draft resolution on Jerusalem include recognition of his administrative role.

The Palestinians, backed by Morocco and Saudi Arabia, have argued that such recognition by the 52-member Organization of the Islamic Conference would have political ramifications in the future and undercut

the Palestinians' claims to the city as the capital of their future state.

Hussein was the first of nine Islamic leaders who addressed the morning session, said the officials. They said he reiterated that Jordan would turn over custodianship of holy sites in Jerusalem to the Palestinians when the final status of the city has been determined in negotiations.

Apparently eager not to embarrass his host, King Hassan II, Hussein stayed until the meeting was adjourned. He then headed to the airport and flew to an undisclosed destination.

Several officials in Arab delegations said privately the session would deal mainly with calls made by the Moroccan and Egyptian

leaders at Tuesday's opening session for a drive to curb extremism which has "tarnished" the image of Islam.

Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said yesterday he feared the summit may be pressured to adopt a pro-Israeli stance.

"I am worried that the leaders of the Muslim world now gathered in Morocco could be tricked into adopting a stance in the interests of the occupying Zionist regime," he said in a speech on state-run Teheran radio.

Hassan called on the summit to establish a "supreme body" to decide what is tolerated and forbidden by Islam.

A code of conduct to deal with terrorism is expected to be adopted by the summit, which was ex-

amining issues ranging from obstacles in the Middle East peace process to the situation of Moslems in Kashmir.

A draft resolution on the plight of Bosnian Moslems, approved by foreign ministers, hardened the position of Islamic nations. They said they are "ready to cooperate" with UN members who wish to ignore the arms embargo that benefits Bosnian Serbs.

Speculation rife over cabinet reshuffle

SARAH HONIG

CONFUSION over the eventual fate of the capital gains tax reigned in the Labor Party yesterday. Speculation was rife that the tax will not be imposed as scheduled and that, despite denials, a cabinet reshuffle is in the offing.

The speculation was fueled by comments by party secretary-general Nissim Zivili, who offered his assistance to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, should he opt for such a reshuffle.

Zivili also appeared to accede to demands that the party review its policies and gear up for the next elections, in view of its decline in the polls. He told a group of MKs headed by Knesset faction chairman Eli Dayan that he might convene an extraordinary

session of the party convention in two months to deliberate all party policies.

Zivili qualified his statements by saying that he does "not believe that Rabin will reshuffle the cabinet re-shuffle. In fact, I personally consider a reshuffle highly unlikely, but should Rabin decide in favor of it, I will support him and do my utmost to help him win the support he would need in party institutions."

His remarks generated rumors that a reshuffle is already in the works and that it involves the Finance, Housing, Energy, Trade and Industry, and other portfolios. However, some in Labor

maintained that Rabin's government is too frail to withstand the shocks of more than a very minor exchange of portfolios.

Zivili added his "confidence that Rabin will certainly consult with [Finance Minister Avraham] Shohat before he makes any decision on the capital gains tax. I don't know what decision he might make, but whatever it is, it would not make a resignation of the finance minister unavoidable."

Meanwhile, Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet continued his attack on the capital gains tax. "The sooner it is repealed, the better for the country, for the national economy, and for the

(Continued on Page 2)

Israel, Romania draw

Post Sports Staff

A LATE equalizing goal by Ronnie Rosenthal saw Israel gain a deserved 1-1 draw against Romania in their European Championship Group 1 qualifying match yesterday.

A capacity crowd of 44,000 at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan watched as Israel played one of their best games in recent years.

Marius Lacatus put Romania up 1-0 in the 69th minute and a shrewd substitution by Israel coach Shlomo Scharf, who brought on Itzik Zohar almost immediately afterwards, led to Rosenthal scoring the equalizer in the 83rd.

Full story, Page 10

King David's reputation subject of Peres-MK duel

DAN IZENBERG

AS if the government and the opposition lacked enough current issues to divide them, they found time yesterday to clash over the personality of King David.

The discussion might have been funny had it not turned into one of the nastiest and most volatile Knesset debates in many months.

It began when Foreign Minister Shimon Peres offered his definition of Judaism. "Mine is a Jewish truth," he told Moledet MK Shaul Guttman in the midst of a verbal duel with opposition MKs over the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo last Saturday. "We did not rule over another people, and we shall not."

"What kind of Judaism is that?" replied Guttman. "Where did you invent that Judaism?" Peres: It's not yours. I don't

accept your Judaism. The Torah has 70 faces. Your face seems to be flat on the ground.

Yosef Ba-Gad: But that is not Torah Judaism.

Guttman: What kind of Judaism is that?

Peres: Does Judaism say you should occupy another nation, is it in favor of repressing another nation? ... What kind of Judaism do you preach? A Judaism of hatred, of domination, of racism. Is that Judaism? It is not mine. You can have it.

The polemics moved briefly to other spheres but quickly returned to the definition of Judaism.

Peres: I'm trying to tell the Torah sage, Mr. Guttman, that not everything that King David did, on the ground, on the roofs (a reference to the story of his love (Continued on Page 2))

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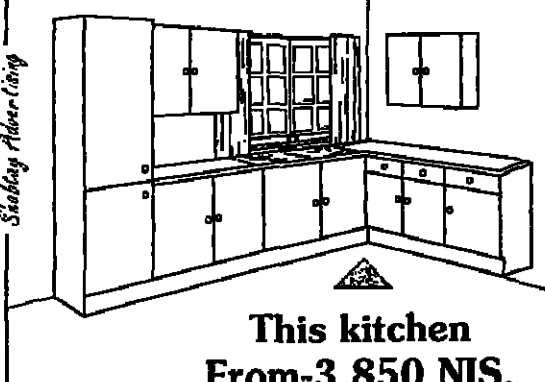
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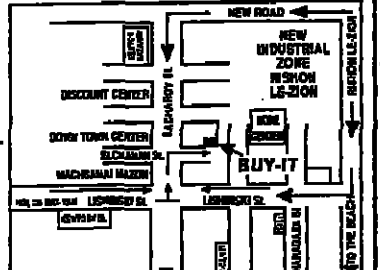


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Four attacks on Hamas anniversary

FOUR soldiers were wounded in attacks yesterday in the Gaza Strip, Ramallah, Nablus, and near Kalkiya, the IDF said.

The upsurge in incidents coincided with the seventh anniversary of the founding of Hamas, and troops were on alert for an increase in attacks. Israel is considering imposing a full closure of territories for the weekend, IDF sources said.

This week also marks the 27th anniversary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is also committed to continuing armed attacks on Israelis.

Sgt. Zvi Freedman was stabbed near the Gaza Strip by one assailant. The soldier was listed in satisfactory condition last night in Beer-sheva's Soroka Hospital, while his assailant — who was shot in the

legs by soldiers — was listed in good condition.

The incident occurred when an IDF force was on routine patrol on the Khan-Yunis-Ganei Tal road, near Gush Katif. Freedman, 20, from Sderot, approached Talal Abu Yousef, 19, of Khan Yunis to question him and was then attacked and stabbed several times with a long kitchen knife.

An initial interrogation revealed that Yousef was apparently acting alone, and was a Hamas sympathizer, but not a member. A Koran was found in his pocket. He told reporters at the hospital that he stabbed a soldier, "because Jews are on our land."

In Ramallah, reservist Shmuel Be'eri, 41, was attacked by a crowd which threw stones and began hitting him after he mistaken-

JON IMMANUEL and ALON PINKAS

ly drove his car into the town center and was caught in traffic.

His car was hit with bricks, bottles, and iron bars. Be'eri pleaded for mercy, but did not use his weapon. Passersby came to his aid, among them a Fatah activist who sought to prevent Be'eri's weapon from being stolen. Be'eri gave him his weapon, and the activist took it to a Ramallah police station.

A Border Police patrol rescued the bleeding Be'eri and took him to the police station for treatment before transferring him to Hadassah-University Hospital, Mount Scopus, where he was listed in good condition. Asked why he did not use his gun, Be'eri said: "I didn't want to use my weapon."

About 30 Ramallah residents were arrested on suspicion of participating in the attack.

In Nabi Ilias, near Alfei Menashe, two soldiers were slightly wounded when a roadside bomb exploded next to their vehicle.

A firebomb was thrown at a police car in Nablus smashing the windshield, but it bounced back into the road and no one was wounded.

Hamas was founded on December 14, 1987, a week after the intifada began, when Islamic youths demanded that the Moslem Brotherhood take a more active, violent, role in the uprising or risk losing the support of the young to the PLO or Islamic Jihad.

Imad Falouji, publisher of the new Hamas weekly Gaza newspaper *Al-Watan*, said that Hamas

planned a big rally this Friday in Gaza which had been licensed by the police. "We will show that Hamas is no small force."

Police said the rally has been licensed on condition that no guns are carried in public. It is expected to be larger than the rally held a week after the riot outside the Palestine Mosque a month ago, in which Palestinian police opened fire killing 14 people.

The PFLP, the third largest Palestinian faction, was not allowed to have a much smaller outdoor rally in Jericho last weekend to celebrate its own anniversary.

It has reached agreement with the police and now all factions in Jericho are permitted "to express their opinions through marches, rallies, or seminars."

Palestinians reject compromise on IDF election withdrawal

JON IMMANUEL

THE PLO rejected an offer of partial withdrawal and joint patrols in yesterday's Cairo talks on redeploying IDF forces before elections.

Several ideas have been mooted to combine the Palestinian need for elections without an Israeli troop presence and Israel's fears for its citizens' security. These include a temporary withdrawal, joint patrols, and a partial withdrawal from town centers. A canton plan raised by Agricultural Minister Ya'acov Tsor would be unworkable without uprooting some settlements, an issue reserved for final talks.

"There is no impasse, no deadlock in the negotiations. There are some disagreements," Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath told reporters in Cairo.

Shaath said the PLO rejected all proposals that deviated from Israel's commitment to withdraw from Arab population centers.

"We are fully aware of the security needs and we shall do everything possible so that the withdrawal will be accompanied by measures which will ensure security to everybody," AP quoted Shaath as saying.

Sports and Youth Minister Azmi Shueibi, also in Cairo, said the Israelis were "apparently buying time. They still don't have a political decision to implement the interim agreement" beyond Gaza and Jericho.

Shueibi represents FIDA, the small social democratic party which is almost the only partner of Fatah in the peace process.

Marwan Barghout, secretary of The Fatah Higher Council in Ramallah, warned that elections without redeployment would be

self-defeating for Israel since they would cost Fatah support and maybe the elections would go to those who oppose the peace process.

FIDA, too, is divided over the issue, with some members of its central committee calling for its two ministers, Shueibi and Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo, to resign from the PA.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in Japan yesterday that he believes PLO leader Yasser Arafat is much stronger than he seems in his battle to guide the future of Palestinian self-rule.

"I believe he is stronger than people think," Rabin told a news conference shortly before leaving Tokyo for Seoul at the end of a three-day visit, AP reported.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said yesterday that it was not only the Palestinians' interest that the IDF withdraw from Arab towns and cities in the West Bank, but also in Israel's interest.

"Leaving the alleyways of Nablus's casbah is an Israeli interest, and I would not want to make this an exclusive Palestinian interest," Beilin told Israel Radio from Brussels.

Beilin noted the necessity for settlers to be able to go on with their day-to-day living in the territories.

Asked about Hamas participating in the Palestinian elections, Beilin said: "If any kind of element wants to run in the elections with the aim of eliminating Israel, I believe that Israel would not agree to it."

But Beilin did not rule out Hamas's participation if it would eliminate its aim of eliminating Israel and giving legitimacy to the peace process.

80 Jews left Iraq over last 3 years

BATSHEVA TSUR

OVER the past three years, 80 Jews have left Iraq, while a similar number still reside in Baghdad and Basra, Mordechai Ben-Porat, head of the Babylonian Heritage Center revealed yesterday.

Acting Jewish Agency Chairman Yehiel Leket, sharply criticized the release of news of the exodus, saying it was insensitive and irresponsible, and could damage the Jewish community left behind.

The Jews who left were granted visas by the British and Dutch embassies, Ben-Porat said. They were issued before the Gulf War, but the Iraqi authorities did not permit the Jews to leave until after the hostilities. In the past year, 10 Jews have left.

Until now, there has been a news blackout on activities of the small community.

The Jewish community, which consists mainly of elderly people, is permitted freedom of worship. It does not have a rabbi, but there are a few cantors. Naji Elias, 70, whose relatives live in Holland, heads the community and meets two or three times a year with Saddam Hussein, Ben-Porat said.

The heritage center on Tuesday screened a one-minute clip from a recent video, showing some 30 men and women praying at a Baghdad synagogue. Ben-Porat said there is also one class for the handful of Jewish children. They are permitted to get religious instruction and to pray in Hebrew, but no teaching of the Hebrew language is allowed.

Rajoub meets father of border policeman he allegedly struck

JON IMMANUEL

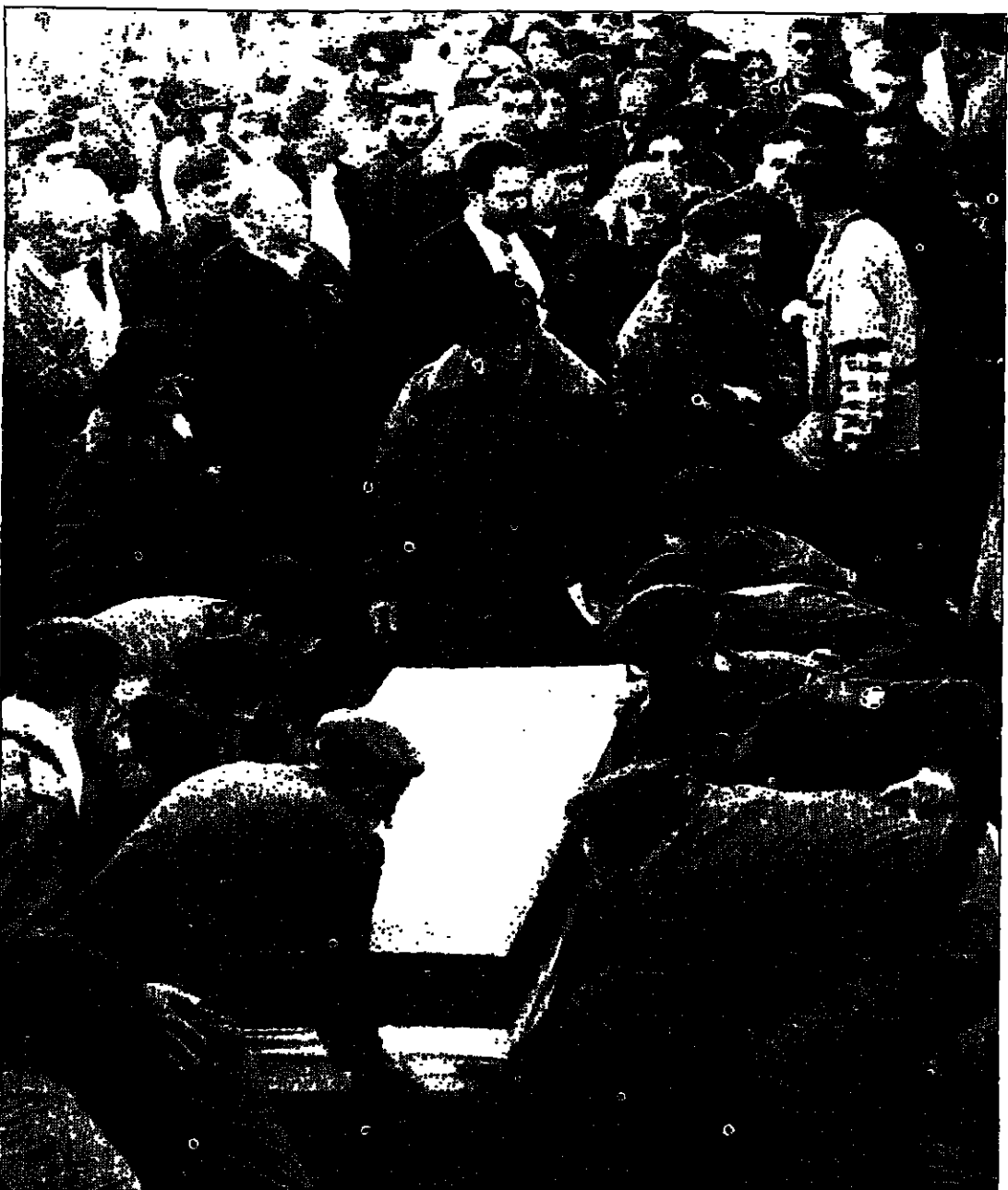
THE head of preventive security in Jericho, Col. Jibril Rajoub, met yesterday with the father of a border policeman he is said to have struck during an incident last weekend.

The 30-minute meeting in Rajoub's office was initiated by Meretz MK Ran Cohen. He brought Shimon Amar, the father of border policeman Rami Amar, to meet Rajoub, because "Each time there is a clash between Palestinians and Jews, it is better to have a meeting of human beings than a hostile clash."

Rajoub said he agreed to the meeting, because he understood Amar is a Meretz peace activist. "I explained what happened and that I believe dialogue is always the best way," Rajoub said.

He denied that he apologized for hitting Amar's son at the Ouja roadblock outside Jericho. "There was an argument with my driver. Reports of a physical clash were baseless," he said.

Rajoub was banned from leaving Jericho for a few hours after the altercation.



Lt. Ariel Ovadia, killed in a clash with terrorists in Lebanon on Sunday, is buried yesterday in Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery. One of Ovadia's commanders said he died a hero when he charged the terrorists after the first burst of fire, saving the lives of several of his soldiers. He is survived by his parents, two sisters, and a brother. (Brian Hendler)

Hizbullah leader warns IDF

Two Hizbullah officers wounded by roadside bomb

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah yesterday warned that Israel would pay a heavy price for any offensives against the extremist Shiite organization.

Israel Radio reported that two Hizbullah officers were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded by their car in the village Zaitar in southern Lebanon. The two were taken to the hospital with moderate injuries. Beirut Radio blamed Israel for the attack.

Nasrallah, who spoke at a press conference in Beirut, also called on the Lebanese Army to "support the resistance" and supply Hizbullah with arms and equipment.

The Hizbullah leader said they had to be vigilant, because "I have no confidence in Rabin's words." He was referring to the public debate in Israel over whether initiated action should be taken against Hizbullah.

"I know the enemy seems to be arguing publicly about what to do, but we have to be wary of the enemy's deceitful ways."

"If they attack they will pay a

heavy price," Nasrallah told reporters.

In a further attempt to undermine the morale of the South Lebanese Army, Nasrallah said the "Israelis cannot protect themselves" and therefore would not protect the SLA.

"The SLA are the sandbags and walking mine detectors who are forced to go in front of Israeli soldiers," he said.

Nasrallah said Hizbullah's operations last week were "proof they could hit the heart of the enemy."

Nasrallah, responding to criticism of Moslem extremists by King Hassan II of Morocco and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at the Islamic summit in Casablanca, characterized Islamic extremism as an act of "self-defense" against Moslem leaders subservient to the West.

"There are a bunch of leaders who are agents of the Americans and the West and there is an Islamic revival in the Arab world," Nasrallah said.

"Islamic revival was in self-defense," he added.

Meanwhile, tension in the security zone and along the northern border remained high yesterday.

A senior Hizbullah source told journalists in Lebanon yesterday that the attack near Marjayoun on Sunday had been significant because of "the timing, location, and the choice of the target."

"The ambush in the middle of an area considered safe by Israel, under the nose of their command centers, and in sight of Metulla, and in broad daylight demonstrated our capability. It was not a hit and run because our fighters attacked from close quarters and kept on fighting," the Hizbullah source was quoted as saying.

Another Hizbullah official, Naim Kaouk, said the organization is ready for any attempts by Israel to change the situation in southern Lebanon.

"We want to make the enemy bleed and make their stay on our land expensive," he told reporters in Lebanon yesterday.

Detonators fall from truck

DAVID RUDGE

A CRATE of detonators fell from the back of a truck en route from Zichron Ya'acov to Jerusalem yesterday, causing a major security alert.

The crate was discovered missing when the truck reached its destination, a quarry in the Har-niv area.

Police were immediately informed, and searches were started along the route taken by the truck. Radio announcements were issued calling on the public

to be alert and not to touch the crate if found.

The crate was eventually handed in at a police station in Ashdod by a motorist, who had seen it fall from the back of the truck when it bounced over railroad tracks in Binyamina.

The motorist picked up the crate, put it in his car, and tried to catch the truck, but lost it in the Tel Aviv area. Police said the motorist heard the announcement on the radio and turned the crate over to the police.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Man killed in road accident

Haith Ataf, 53, of Shfaram, was killed yesterday evening when his car hit a truck at the entrance to Kafr Yasif. According to police, Ataf failed to stop at a stop sign and ran into the side of the truck. *Itm*

26 children hurt in bus-truck collision

Twenty-six children were lightly injured yesterday when a minibus collided with a truck on the Ashdod-Yavne road. Mobile intensive care units and ambulances from Ashdod and Rehovot to the injured to the hospital. *Itm*

DAVID

(Continued from Page One)
affair with Batsheba is acceptable to a Jew or is something I like.

Ba-Gad [standing up and shouting]: It is a disgrace to say that. You should be ashamed of yourself.

During this part of the shouting match, Peres appeared to be enjoying himself. "In the name of Batsheba, I apologize to King David," he said at one point.

But by this time the religious MKs were beside themselves with rage. Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism), stood up and waved his hands about, insisting on asking Peres a question and refusing to sit down when ordered to do so by Speaker Esther Salmons.

Later, when he was given permission to speak, Gafni said: "For the first time in the history of the State of Israel, a senior minister, the foreign minister, stands up and speaks out against King David, the sweet psalmist."

Avraham Verdirger told Peres: "Never in the history of the Knesset has an official representative of such standing, a Jew who, when he needs to, dons a kippah and rushes from the home of one rabbi to another, said such grave things about the sweet psalmist, David, King of Israel."

Verdirger seemed on the verge of collapse. After the debate, he went to the Knesset infirmary and was found to be suffering from extremely high blood pressure.

Peres, stung by the attacks, returned to the podium to defend himself. But the move only made things worse.

"Shut up," Avraham Ravitz (UTJ) shouted at him. "You will not give out grades to King David."

Ba-Gad: Get down from there. Get down from there.

Gafni began to advance towards the podium, with Ba-Gad not far behind. When Salmons ejected Gafni, the opposition MKs followed him out of the plenum.

Afterwards, the NRP, the UTJ and Mokedet submitted motions of no-confidence. They will be heard in the plenum next Monday.

Peres issued a statement last night saying he did not intend to denigrate King David or offend religious people.

Meanwhile, Council of Torah Sages said it would meet soon to discuss Peres's statements and the unacceptable behavior of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who ate non-kosher food in public while visiting in Japan.

Immigrants need help or will default on loans

NEW criteria must be drawn up quickly to prevent immigrants who cannot repay loans from having items confiscated from their homes, Knesset Absorption Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman said yesterday.

"Immigrants must return the loans they took, but we must not abandon that very select group of people who cannot repay the loan," Zissman said. "Moreover, that group was taken into consideration when it was decided to turn the Jewish Agency's part of the absorption basket from a grant to a loan."

Acting Jewish Agency Chair-

Jerusalem Post Staff

man Yehiel Leket said the agency is not ignoring the problem. "We will help those who cannot meet the payment conditions for social reasons. The only argument the Jewish Agency's leadership has with the recommendations of the committee is the timing of the publication of the criteria for special considerations or exemptions," Leket said.

"The representatives of the Jewish communities, who are the guarantors of the loans, believe that announcing the criteria ahead of time would be harmful,

and lead people to mistakenly believe the loan has been turned into a grant. We believe we should wait several months."

Jewish Agency aliya department head Uri Gordon said 60 percent of immigrants took loans as part of their absorption basket, and he is confident they will repay them. However, those who cannot do so must be helped immediately.

Soviet Immigrants Association chairwoman Sufa Landver threatened action unless the Agency publishes the criteria immediately.

President gives loan to arthritic boy

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman is donating NIS 3,000 to help send Nir Cohen, 15, of Bat Yam, for major surgery in London. Cohen, who suffers from Still's disease (juvenile rheumatic arthritis), stopped growing at five and needs to have all his joints replaced.

The Cohen family - whose father is a factory worker and mother a housewife - is trying to raise NIS 210,000 for the surgery, which is not performed here. The Health Ministry recognized the boy's need to go abroad for the surgery. The Cohens are insured by Kupat Holim Clalit's supplementary health insurance, Shatil, but the Dika company that provides this insurance did not recognize the surgery as "life-saving" and turned down their request for coverage.

Clalit spokesman David Tagar said that, "as a gesture beyond Shatil's obligations," the health fund will give the family NIS 36,000.

Nurit Cohen, Nir's mother, said that the operation, if successful, will give her son the possibility of growing again and even of getting out of his wheelchair.

Contributions may be deposited in Bank Leumi's Bat Yam branch No. 861, account No. 418176/17.

IMA demands MK Benizri apologize

JUDY SIEGEL

SHAS MK Shlomo Benizri refused yesterday to apologize to the Israel Medical Association for claiming that private abortion doctors "keep dogs in their clinics to dispose of fetuses." Benizri made this claim during a discussion on abortion last week at a meeting of the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee.

The IMA, which represents 12,000 doctors, stated yesterday that if Benizri were not an MK "hiding behind the immunity law, a slander suit would be filed against him, or even a criminal complaint with approval of the attorney-general." It denounced Benizri's "baseless allegations."

Asked to comment, Benizri said he "never received any letter from the IMA, and it is impudent to demand an apology without contacting me first."

Tzaban raps police for stigmatizing Russian olim

Jerusalem Post Staff

ABSORPTION Minister Yair Tzaban yesterday accused the police of harming the image of Russian immigrants by publishing a report on the so-called "Russian Mafia."

In a report in the *Police Journal*, police intelligence head Hezi Lehrer said the "Russian Mafia's" crime would turn Israel into a "hell."

"The type of recent reports on the Russian Mafia create a false impression that there is a wide phenomenon of crime among the immigrants, when we are mostly talking about people who are pretending to be new immigrants," said Tzaban.

Tzaban blamed certain senior police officers for not differentiating between new immigrants and criminals from the CIS who are trying to exploit the immigration wave as a cover for their crimes. Tzaban met with Police Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday to discuss the matter, and they agreed to hold a seminar for the senior police command on dealing with new immigrants.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel, Jordan agree to establish bus routes

The Jordanian transport authorities have agreed in principle to establish three regular bus lines between Israel and Jordan, the Transport Ministry announced yesterday, following talks at the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea on Monday. The three lines would run between Haifa and Amman, Tel Aviv and Amman, and Eilat and Akaba. None will cross the Allenby Bridge. The ministry said the Israeli bus company to operate these routes will be chosen by public tender.

Prosecution rests in Diniz trial

The last prosecution witness in the trial of Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Diniz testified yesterday in Jerusalem District Court. Police Ch.-Supt. Liora Ben-Porat testified that she had written a misleading memo about the location of prosecution evidence. But Diniz's lawyer, Uri Wagman, said the material had not been made available to the defense. Wagman is now due to call witnesses for the defense.

litm

TA - Haifa train service to be interrupted

No trains will run on the Tel Aviv-Haifa line Friday or Saturday night, because of work to double the track in the Hadera area. Normal service will resume Sunday morning. Trains on other lines (Haifa-Nahariya, Tel Aviv-Rehovot and Tel Aviv-Jerusalem) will run as usual.

Egypt names envoy to Gaza and Jericho

Egypt has picked an envoy to head its diplomatic mission in the Palestinian autonomous territories. Minister Plenipotentiary Mahmoud Koraim will inaugurate the office in the Gaza Strip early next year, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

(AP)

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, eight of hearts, king of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

Goldberg c'tee implementation may lead to reopening of Danny Katz case

Jerusalem Post Staff

POLICE Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday that Deputy Attorney-General Yehudit Karp is examining the conviction of the murderers of Haifa schoolchild Danny Katz nearly a decade ago. He said he expects a decision from Karp within three months as to whether a retrial is warranted under the Goldberg recommendations.

Shahal and Justice Minister David Liba'i have instructed the heads of investigation in their ministries to implement the recommendations of the Goldberg Commission.

The commission, a government-sponsored panel of legal experts headed by Supreme Court Justice Eliezer Goldberg, which

looked into the issue of confessions and retrials, had recommended allowing lawyers to be present during interrogations or to have them videotaped to assure that a suspect's rights are upheld.

Liba'i said the commission had done outstanding work in an extremely difficult area.

At the same time, he pointed out that "the cases are extremely rare in which the contention of prisoners that they were wrongfully convicted prove accurate. With the recommended changes, it will be possible to request a retrial when there is a real suspicion there has been a miscarriage of justice."

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One of the fish found in the Kinneret that were thought to be piranhas.

(Brian Hendler)

They aren't piranhas after all

DAVID RUDGE

THE fierce-looking fish netted earlier this week by Kinneret fishermen are not piranhas after all.

Dr. Danny Golani, of the Hebrew University's evolution and ecology department, said the toothy fish resemble the red piranha, but are in fact a harmless vegetarian.

"The scientific name for this fish is *colossoma*, and it is native to South America, where it is known as pacu," Golani told *The Jerusalem Post*. "It feeds primari-

ly on fruits and nuts, which is why it has teeth. The teeth, however, are different than those of a predator, like piranha, which has blade-like teeth."

The piranha scare might now be over, but Golani and his colleagues are still very concerned as to how the fish entered the lake.

He called on the Fisheries Department and the Nature Reserves Authority to see if they could net more specimens for

examination. Golani said that if the fish had been released into the lake by people who had kept them as pets, it was a serious matter, especially in view of the delicate ecological balance in the Kinneret.

The news that the fish are not piranha brought smiles to the faces of tourism officials in the Kinneret region. They had been concerned about the possible impact of such a phenomenon on

the tourist trade. Tiberias Mayor Yossi Peretz and Jordan Valley Regional Council chairman Ze'ev Shor both criticized those responsible for causing the scare, without first checking the facts with experts.

"When it was claimed that there were alligators in the lake, I offered a big cash reward for anyone who could produce evidence or catch them. I also offered a reward for the piranhas. The fact is that the rewards are still in the council offices," Shor said.

Strictly kosher phone directory caters to Jerusalem's haredi Jews

HERB KEINON

THE fingers meant to walk through the yellow pages of a new Jerusalem telephone directory are fingers that are frequently used to kiss mezzuzot.

Say hello to Jerusalem's Haredi Telephone Directory.

On the back cover is a color advertisement for gefilte fish; on the front a bearded man in a black kippa tarring a roof. In between the covers are the phone numbers of some 30,000 families living in the capital's haredi neighborhoods, as well as everything from the names of Shabbat-observing electricians to a list of the city's *sha'atez* laboratories which test the ritual purity of clothing.

Shlomo Brandt, the director of the company that publishes the directory, stressed that the purpose is not to encourage haredi Jews to buy only from other har-

edi Jews, but rather to provide a listing of businesses that strictly observe Shabbat and kashrut.

"We don't care whether the owner of the business is religious," Brandt said. "We are only concerned that the business itself observes the dictates of Shabbat and kashrut." A cab company that dispatches taxis on Shabbat will not, for instance, be listed in the directory.

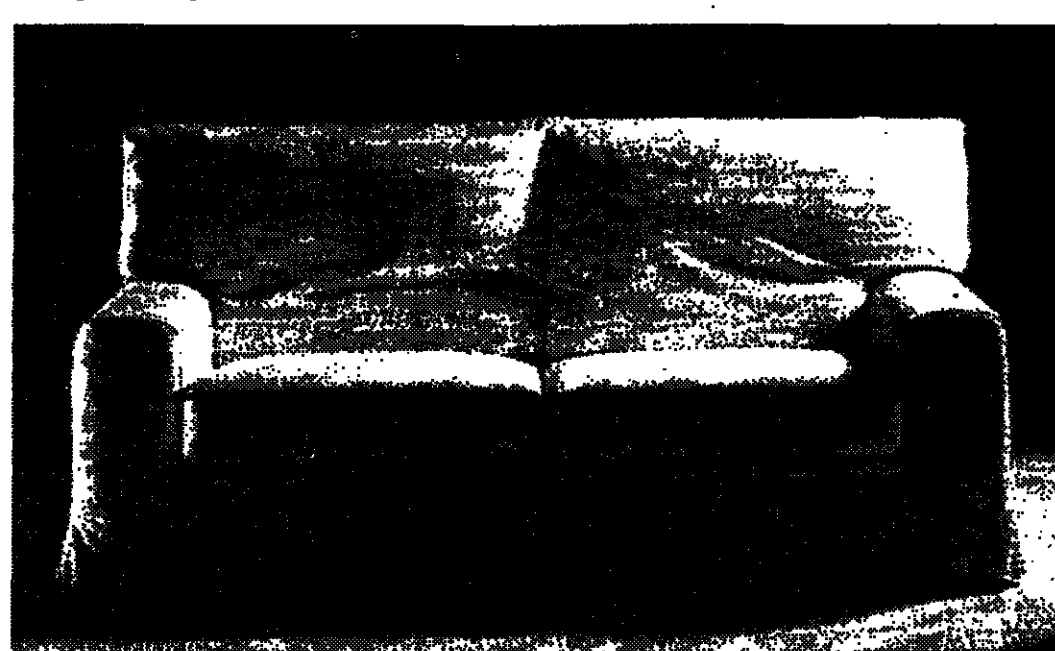
Brandt said his company tries to check the advertisers to ensure they indeed are not open on Shabbat and strictly keep kosher. For example, a Haredi Directory employee will call one of the plumbers interested in being listed just before Shabbat to find out if he will make a house call that will extend into Shabbat. If so, the plumber won't be listed.

The directory has white pages with the phone listings of the city's religious neighborhoods - Mea She'arim, Har Nof, Mattersdorf, Bayit Vagan, and others. It has yellow pages with business listings, and blue pages that list the city's yeshivot, ritual baths, and a plethora of charitable loan organizations lending everything from bridal wedding shoes to popcorn poppers.

The directory lists 35 ritual baths, 90 religious elementary schools, nine kashrut supervisory bodies, and 29 hassidic rabbis in Jerusalem. The hassidic rabbi listing is especially valuable, since it lists the rebbe by dynasty.

This feature enables individuals to find the name of the Slonim rebbe, for example, by looking under Slonim in the hassidic rebbe listings in the blue pages.

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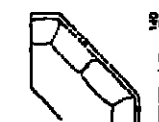


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Jerusalem, Pierre Koenig 33, Tel. 02-733011

Russia issues warning to Chechen rebels

News agencies

MOSCOW — The Russian government said yesterday it would use all means to restore order in Chechnya if separatist rebels failed to disarm by today, the official Itar-Tass news agency said.

"We confirm our intention to...put an end to the bloodshed in the zone of the Chechen conflict," it quoted a government statement as saying. "Those who fail to lay down their arms by December 15 will be responsible for all consequences of their criminal recklessness."

Chechen soldiers meanwhile shot down a Russian air force helicopter in the west of the breakaway republic, just one hour after a local truce had been agreed.

Reuter correspondent David Ljunggren saw Chechen soldiers fire at close range at two medium-sized Russian attack helicopters as they flew by. Minutes later he saw an abandoned bullet-ridden helicopter on a wooded road, with the pilot's seat awash with blood.

About an hour before the craft was downed, commanders of a big Russian column which had halted just outside Novo-Shurvoi, about 45 km west of the regional capital Grozny, had agreed with local politicians that the army would stay where it was until the outcome of peace talks became clear.

Chechnya's defiant President Dzhokhar Dudayev angrily withdrew his delegates from peace talks with Moscow as the Russians' planes opened machine-gun fire on the region's capital and bombed its outskirts.

Dudayev urged the people of his separatist republic to fight Russian soldiers to the death.

"The soil must burn under their feet," Dudayev said on national television. "It's a war for life or death. The current Russian regime hasn't left any other options to the citizens of Chechnya."



Chechen fighters form ranks in central Grozny to take up defensive positions on the outskirts of the city. (AP)

Five Russian SU-25 fighter planes made an air strike on the outskirts of Grozny and opened machine-gun fire on the center of the city, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. Chechen officials said there were casualties.

For the second straight day, Russian artillery pounded a village on the road to Grozny, the Chechen capital, and jets streaked across the pre-dawn sky. Explosions rang out from the mountains beyond the city, and Chechen forces managed to force

down a Russian helicopter by wounding its pilot.

"It's unacceptable to bomb populated areas while you have been conducting negotiations," Dudayev said, in explaining his decision to temporarily suspend talks for consultations.

President Boris Yeltsin is drawing strong support from the Clinton administration in using troops, tanks and rockets against this tiny region bidding for independence.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Yeltsin had been urged to minimize bloodshed. But Christopher said Chechnya is part of Russia and it was best to defer to Yeltsin's judgment in dealing with secessionists.

Western leaders scrambled to come to grips with the unravelling UN mission in Bosnia.

In Brussels, NATO decided to have military chiefs of member countries with forces in the UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia meet in the Netherlands on Monday to look into ways of making the 23,000-member UNPROFOR

UN food convoy dispatched to Bihac enclave

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — The United Nations sent an emergency aid convoy to Serb-besieged Bihac yesterday as another civilian was killed by a mortar fired into the Moslem enclave's main town, a supposed UN "safe area."

Trucks laden with 106 tonnes of food left for Bihac after the main UN relief agency obtained rare permission from Serb forces who have barred all but 13 of 155 convoys since June in efforts to starve the enclave into submission.

Bosnian and kindred Krajina Serbs from Croatia have shelled Bihac town with impunity since NATO cut deterrent flights over Bosnia at the request of the United Nations.

Serb forces then freed peacekeepers detained in retaliation for four NATO air raids.

An elderly man was killed and another civilian was wounded inside Bihac town yesterday when a 120mm mortar crashed into a house, a UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman said. It was the third civilian death from mortar attacks in a week.

A UN observation post on the embattled outskirts of the "safe area" in Bosnia's remote northwest corner came under anti-aircraft machine-gun fire from Krajina Serbs, too, but there were no injuries, UNPROFOR spokesman Paul Risley told Reuters.

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In Brussels, NATO decided to have military chiefs of member countries with forces in the UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia meet in the Netherlands on Monday to look into ways of making the 23,000-member UNPROFOR

more effective. UN operations have been laid low by Serb forces blasting over NATO air strikes on their positions near Bihac. But the UN commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, made clear he would call in NATO bombers only as a last resort.

"I think (large-scale) NATO air strikes should be our last choice after all else has failed," he said in an interview with a Croatian newspaper, arguing that UNPROFOR would then have to leave, consigning millions of people to a humanitarian disaster.

NATO's military commander feels he would need up to 45,000 troops backed by three aircraft carriers and up to 70 planes to cover a forced exit of UNPROFOR, alliance sources said.

Alliance defense ministers discussed the potential pullout at the start of a two-day meeting yesterday.

But US officials stressed that, after a week of Western clamour for preparations to withdraw UN troops, the mood had swung in favour of keeping them in Bosnia despite widespread harassment from Serb forces.

Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy in former Yugoslavia, said after crisis talks with the warring parties that he had won no commitment to a ceasefire but persuaded the Serbs to return confiscated UNPROFOR supplies.

"We have (also) agreed principal procedures on the freedom of movement of UN convoys, without hindrance. Concrete procedures will be agreed at another meeting here on Thursday," he told reporters in the Bosnian Serb base town Pale.

US commuter plane crashes, killing 15

MORRISVILLE, N.C. (AP) — An American Eagle commuter plane was on its fifth trip in a daylong series of flights across North Carolina when it crashed in fog and drizzle, killing 15 of the 20 people aboard.

It was the commuter airline's second crash within two months, but the plane was not the same as the model that went down in Indiana in October, killing all 68 people aboard.

Flight 3379 from Greensboro went down 5.6 kms from Raleigh-Durham International Airport about 6:40 p.m. Tuesday. The crash broke the fuselage in half and scattered wreckage across rugged woods, airport spokeswoman Teresa Damiano said.

Residents who rushed to the scene said they heard the cries of survivors as the Jetstream Super 31's cockpit burned. One passenger was walking around in shock,

looking for his wife.

When Edmond Badham arrived at the scene about 10 minutes after the crash, he found people pinned in a 20-foot-long chunk of the fuselage.

"There was a woman who was trapped upside down and still strapped into her seat," he said. "I was afraid if I undid the belt she would fall."

With debris burning about 7 meters away, Badham and others

tried to pull the victims free.

"We saw one person that was clearly dead and he was face down and burning. ... We pulled him out of the wreckage and put him out, but he was clearly dead," he told The Associated Press.

"There was one major piece, and the rest of it was a mix of fire, plane, trees and wire," said Badham, describing the scene to The Herald-Sun of Durham.

The two-engine turboprop, American Eagle's smallest plane, seats 19 passengers and has a 15.5 meter wingspan. It was 3 degrees Celsius on the ground and much colder in the air when the plane crashed with 18 passengers and two pilots aboard. Visibility was at 3.2 km at the airport.

Thirteen people died at the scene and seven others were taken to hospitals, Damiano said. Two people died at Duke University Medical Center, and two others there suffered "extensive trauma," hospital spokeswoman Renee Twombly said.

Three survivors were in critical condition at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh.

Berlusconi: Magistrates have no evidence

ROME (Reuters) — Silvio Berlusconi yesterday vowed to battle on as Italy's prime minister yesterday, saying Milan magistrates who quizzed him over allegations of corruption did not have a shred of hard evidence against him.

But many political commentators said the episode had brought his seven-month-old government one step closer to collapse.

"The Final Showdown," ran a bold headline across the front page of *La Repubblica* newspaper.

"Under Pressure" was the offering of the respected *La Voce* newspaper over a montage of Berlusconi's head on a bed of lettuce between a hamburger bun.

Berlusconi hit back in an interview published in *La Repubblica*, alleging he had never paid a bribe and that his Fininvest media company had been the victim of extortion by corrupt finance police.

"They don't have a shred of evidence against me — only conjecture and suspicion," said Berlusconi.

"The conspiracy against me and my government is so vast and intense that it can be likened to a coup d'etat," he added.

The Turin-based *La Stampa* weighed in with a front page editorial that said the seven-hour questioning would prove the final straw for Berlusconi's government, which is teetering on the brink of collapse after months of arguing among coalition parties.

"Even if Berlusconi is not prepared to give in, there is no doubt that the seven extremely long hours he was questioned for have marked the end of his government," it said.

Even Berlusconi's closest allies were pessimistic that the conservative government would survive after parliament has passed the 1995 budget, which must be approved by the end of December.

"His government isn't dead yet, but it is certainly very sick," said Carlo Scognamiglio, a member of Berlusconi's Forza Italia party and the speaker in the Senate (upper house).

Gianfranco Fini, leader of the far right National Alliance and

Berlusconi's closest ally, said a crisis was inevitable.

But he said any subsequent government that did not include his party and Forza Italia would betray the electorate.

In a sign that the reckoning was fast approaching, at least five opposition parties withdrew amendments to the 1995 budget bill on Tuesday in a bid to speed its passage through parliament and the onset of the political showdown.

The federalist Northern League coalition party also pulled its amendments — an ominous sign that the party was as keen as the opposition on hastening a crisis.

Berlusconi is the first Italian prime minister to face a criminal investigation while in office.

He is suspected of knowing that three companies in his \$7 billion-a-year empire paid tax police 330 million lire (\$205,000) in bribes in 1990 and 1991 for lenient audits.

The Italian lira hovered around 1,042 to the German mark early yesterday, just off its all-time low of 1,043.

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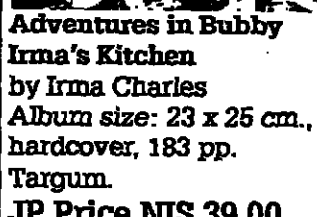
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Season for shopping

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

WINTER weddings, New Year's Eve parties, cocktail receptions or any other occasion requiring formal or semiformal dress presents a welcome excuse to go shopping. This has become much easier

with increased imports, the incorporation of velvets, silks, chiffons and other traditionally romantic fabrics into everyday street wear, and the upgrading of denim with extravagant appliques and embroideries.

YOUR baby can lull herself to sleep with the newly imported Melody Pacifier, in Hebrew, *Mutikol*. When the infant sucks its silicone nipple, the pacifier plays "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." The volume is very low. The musical mechanism is sealed inside a plastic knob, making it look something like a mushroom. It can be sterilized by boiling. The pacifier is produced in Korea and distributed here by the veteran soap makers Neca, which says the product has passed necessary tests by the Health Ministry and Standards Institute. It comes in two nipple sizes: short, for infants from birth to six months; long, for six months to one year. The product carries a US patent number. It comes in pink, baby blue and white, and is sold for NIS 19.50 at chain stores and other places carrying Neca toiletries. One hopes babies who use it won't come to expect musical accompaniment at mother's breast.

BY THE time children are two or three, they can sleep in a jeep. The Ron Center furniture firm is importing Italian children's beds designed to look like canvas-topped jeeps: the red-and-white Sleepy for boys, and pink-and-white Pinky for girls. Each costs NIS 1,999 without mattress. Ron offers several suitable mattresses, measuring 190/90 cm., which is wider than usual. By special order, customers can also get beds modeled on the Ferrari or Mercedes from the same Italian furniture maker, Tema Mobili. Other pieces complement the cars, such as a cupboard shaped like a gasoline pump. For those with more conventional tastes and budgets, Ron sells a NIS 950 imported bed called 1-2-3, which has a headboard and footboard with a colored-pencil motif. A mattress



For kids who want to get some shut-eye and be on the go at the same time, the Ron Center furniture firm imports Italian children's beds designed to look like canvas-topped jeeps.

Sweet dreams, sucker

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MEISELS

FOR PERSONAL correspondence, you can buy attractive sets of stationery and note cards with proceeds going to the United Nations Children's Fund. They are available from the Super Pharm chain and The Jerusalem Post book department, which accepts orders by mail, phone and fax, as well as selling to shoppers who stop in. For details from the Post, call (02) 241282. Sets of 10 decorative UNICEF note cards with envelopes at Super Pharm retail for NIS 25.70. The Post also sells an assortment of sets at the same price, plus a postcard set at NIS 13 and stationery sets going for up to NIS 35.10. My favorites are the patchwork-style Quilt Assortment and the Fantasy Assortment of whimsical animal designs. Proceeds are

costs extra. There are matching desks costing NIS 950, and three-door closets at NIS 1,600. Ron Center is at 2 Rehov Hayotzer, Be'er Ya'acov (west of Ramle), tel. (08) 214001. **IF YOUR** children are stuck at home on a cold winter's day, you might cheer them up with the latest paper products, from Palphot, which has the rights to characters from the Disney film *The Lion King*. The line includes a coloring book with Hebrew captions, NIS 6.15; a block of writing paper with envelopes, NIS 4.65; and a block of 20 birthday-party invitations, NIS 1.95. Incidentally, this year is the 60th year of Palphot, which is best known for its postcards and slides with scenes of Israel.

WHY DO so many manufacturers seem to think that sweets for children must look and taste artificial? One such product is a plastic cup in the shape of an ice-cream cone, filled with a jelly-like, brightly colored liquid which the child sucks from a hole in the top. It is promoted as a wintertime substitute for ice cream and popples. Called Gimmick, the icky, sticky, phoney cone comes in over half a dozen flavors and colors. Water, sugar, corn starch, flavorings and food colorings are the main ingredients. Produced by Funny Factory of Upper Nazareth, Gimmicks are sold individually at kiosks for NIS 1.50, or in packages of four for NIS 6 in supermarkets. The Upper Nazareth Rabbinate certifies them as kosher and parve. **EVEN THE** Snowcrest ice-cream company seems to think children need a winter substitute. It makes Cremli snacks. These are Crembo-style chocolate covered balls of marshmallow-like white fluff on a cookie base. Flavoring essences are used, but no colorings. A box of eight sells for NIS 6.60. They are certified kosher parve by the Petah Tikva Rabbinate. They even taste good. **HOW ABOUT** children's scissors which cut wavy lines? Named Crazy Cutters, the colorful scissors are imported from Italy and sell here for NIS 12 at chain stores. They carry the European CE emblem for toy safety. The promoters say the scissors keep children creatively occupied for a long time. I doubt it, unless you are willing to invest in several of the seven variations of rippled and jagged-line styles in which they come.

Van can't transform easily from people to cargo carrier

MOTORING
JOEL GORDIN

FORD ECONOLINE CLUB WAGON, Eight- (or 12-) seat van. Engine: 4,900 cc. Horsepower: 150 at 3,400cc. Gears: automatic. Length: 5.38 meters. Width: 2.02m. Height: 2.14m. Net weight: 2,332 kg. Gross or maximum permissible weight: 3,946kg. Price: NIS 128,000 (before VAT). **W**HEN a friend heard I was scheduled to test-drive a large van, she asked me to transport a fairly long sofa to her new home. I agreed, thinking the job would be a cinch in the 5.38-meter-long Club Wagon. The version I test-drove was fitted out for seven passengers, which means there were two rows of three-passenger seats behind the driver/passenger seats. There was not quite enough room for the couch behind the last seat, which I had expected to be able to fold or move to the side. This is possible in most

vans. In the Club Wagon, the third seat does not fold down, but has to be removed from the vehicle altogether. It slid out of its housing with the flick of a lever, but lifting it out of the back was another story. I don't know how much the seat weighs, but it takes at least two men of average strength to carry it away. And then, of course, you are faced with the problem: Where do you store the seat if you don't own a private garage? I don't know why the seats in the back can't be folded flat — maybe the idea is that they are of too high a quality to be damaged by having objects loaded on them. At any rate, the Club Wagon cannot easily switch from a "people carrier" to a goods' van. The massively built, tank-like Club Wagon is nothing like the Mazda MVP or the Toyota Previa. These are the classic "people carrier" vans that handle like automobiles which many Israelis use either because they have large families, or because they have businesses which allows them to claim tax breaks on vehi-



The Club Wagon, part of the local dealer's policy to import made-in-America Fords.

cles recognized as "commercial." The Club Wagon must be compared to the more "van-like" and less "auto-like" GMC's Chev Sportvan and Vandura, though both these are shorter and have smaller, 4.3 liter engines. Ford's local dealer, Israel

Automobile Co., has imported the Club Wagon as part of its new policy to supply Israelis with Fords made in the US. The Club Wagon is part of the company's "Econoline" series, which includes, among others, the compact Aerostar, available here for

some time already. As expected from a US-made car, the Club Wagon has an admirable surplus of the latest safety and luxury features. There are airbags for both front passengers and an ABS braking system. There is cruise control, a split air-

conditioning system for front and back passengers, and a storage compartment between the two front seats which includes a "snack tray" with cup holders, and racks for compact discs (although the model I tested had only a radio/tape). And if anyone had any further doubt about the auto's origins, the automatic shift lever is a "stalk" from the steering-wheel column, an appendage found in no European or Japanese cars. All the seats are comfortable and luxurious. The driver sits low and the field of vision is satisfactory, although I would have liked to be able to adjust the seat for height. But on bad sections of roads, the plush seats cannot compensate for the suspension, which is unsuitable for anything other than a US superhighway. Access to the rear is through two rear doors or through a sliding side door on the right-hand side. This can be opened by an electric switch on the dash board, which saves the driver from getting out each time a passenger wants to get in or out. Considering American manufacturers' ad-

mirable concern for safety, I was surprised the switch operated while the auto was in motion. The switch also activates a telescoping running board, something I last saw in a James Bond movie, made in the 1960s. The running board glows in the dark like a nightclub sign in Las Vegas. The Club Wagon's maximum permissible weight is only 44 kg. below four tons — the weight which would oblige the driver to have a gimmick (class three) driving license. The kilos are felt mainly on the hills, where there is a noticeable loss of momentum. The excellent power steering and huge rear-view and side mirrors make it surprisingly easy to maneuver in town. With its seven or 11 passenger seats, this interesting, reasonably-priced American is suitable for companies, kibbutzim and the like. The luggage space may not be big enough for a sofa — but it should be sufficient for the passengers' luggage. A diesel version and a 14-seater are available in the US, and Israel Automobile plans to introduce them here.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

DINING TABLE — and 6 chairs, NIS 300. 02-5710088. **WEDDING GOWN** — American size 6-8, elegant, pearl trim, matching veil, NIS 300. 02-530179. **SHAVIT STOVE** — with broiler and oven, in good condition, NIS 250. 08-471146. **LADIES' FUR JACKET** — Cashmere, small size, beige, corduroy trim with fox sleeves and trim, NIS 200. 02-244792. **ROUND GLASS DINING TABLE** — with metal frame, 106 cm diameter, great condition, NIS 250 o.b.o. 02-578859. **CLASSICAL RECORDS** — NIS 2 each. 04-764313. **ELECTRIC DRILL** — with bits, polishing and sanding attachments, NIS 140. 04-339658. **PICTURE FRAMES** — large, NIS 40 each; games table, NIS 50; lamps, table and wall, NIS 50. 09-351759. **ROOF RACK** — new in carton, aluminum, tubular steel legs, Deano 4000, adjustable, NIS 300. 03-6313423. **2 ARMCHAIRS** — large, overstuffed, antique, NIS 50 each. 04-244792. **HARMONICA** — super chromatic, NIS 99; rotor heater, NIS 95 — both almost new. Rohit, 09-555733. **FIRST-DAY COVER STAMPS** — 100th anniversary birth of Lenin, set of 10 on picture postcards, posted at sea, NIS 20. 06-251006. **MUSIC FOR 2 PIANOS** — Bach, Hindemith, Debussy, Copland, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Saint Saens, NIS 5-NIS 10 each. 04-242207. **FABRIC REMNANTS** — ideal for patch-work, NIS 10 per bag hand-dyed and spun knitting wools, NIS 50. 02-781411. **STAINLESS SINK** — with drain, taps and spray, excellent condition, NIS 300. 02-637219. **SINGLE BED** — solid pine, 190/70 cm, NIS 250. 02-323181. **FITTED SHEET** — for double bed (150/200), new, plus 3 matching pillowcases and double bed sheet (fused), NIS 65; 2 king-size blanket covers, pink, NIS 70. 02-527833. **KITCHEN CUPBOARDS** — black formica, marble top, taps, good condition, NIS 300. 02-512466. **CHINESE MEDICINE** — menopause, GHI, NIS 24 a bottle. 02-764405. **ROWING MACHINE** — heavy duty, good

condition, NIS 225. 02-362163. **TRENCHCOAT** — black, zip-out lining, new, imported by Hager, size 44 regular, NIS 300. 02-931706. **LADIES' DOWN COAT** — black with hood, small, NIS 280. 02-665426. **SONY RECEIVER** — NIS 200 o.b.o. 02-860112. **JOINTIE WALKER** — 3 bottles, NIS 210; leather shoes, new, NIS 90. Philip, P.O.B. 71159, Jerusalem. **STROLLER** — good condition, collapsible, 3 positions, NIS 150; 2 directors' chairs, folding with wooden frame, both for NIS 150. 02-867170. **JANE FONDA WORKOUT VIDEO** — tape, NIS 12; Good Housekeeping, NIS 13 each; A/J videotapes, NIS 13 each. 02-611240. **REAL ANGORA** — cardigan, pullover, trousers, almost new, size 46, NIS 250. 02-25104. **OVAL MIRROR** — gold embossed, 66 cms. high, NIS 300 o.b.o. 02-514178. **DINING TABLE** — round, excellent condition, almost new, NIS 300. 02-514285, or 02-836317. **CASIO BLOOD PRESSURE** — monitor watch, model BP-100, new, NIS 200. 02-664836. **BOX OF EDUCATIONAL TOYS** — (pre-school), NIS 50; long curtain, NIS 40; stroller cover, rainproof, Mothercare, new, NIS 30. 02-865809. **GLASS LIGHT FITTING** — hanging tubes, easy to clean, NIS 275. 02-524823. **HERBALIFE KIT** — never opened, NIS 250. 02-733142. **LAB COATS** — sizes 42-44 (American), excellent quality, NIS 44 each or lot (8) for NIS 250. 02-820597. **GAP DENIM JEANS** — new, sizes: 28/29W, 32L, NIS 100 each. 02-476189. **TRAVEL KENNEL FOR PET** — up to 16 kilos, used once, NIS 150. 02-714449. **GIRLS' COAT** — Windy Trade, new, size 14, NIS 140. 02-470074. **NIKE** — size 34, NIS 140. 02-470074. **MEAT GRINDER** — 110V, NIS 80; stand-up mixer, 110V, NIS 60; punch bowl with 12 cups, NIS 60. 02-352112. **BOBBY DRESSER** — white, Shilav, almost new, NIS 300. 02-731817. **THE NEW YORKER** — since 1989, NIS 1 each. 04-344251. **WOMEN'S SHOES** — American, NIS 4, classic oxford, leather, SAS, beige, NIS 75. 02-733403. **NIKE AIR CROSS-TRAINING** — size 8.5

(Eur. 42), NIS 300 o.b.o. 02-636648. **MATERNITY SWEATER** — new, elegant, minty black, NIS 110; halogen ceiling light, pink/grey, NIS 35; 200 cm. lens, beyonet fitting, NIS 155. 02-717335. **PARADISE MATTRESS** — NIS 189; folding bed with mattress, NIS 138; bathroom scale, NIS 14. 02-617257. **MICROWAVE OVEN** — Sharp, large size, good condition, NIS 200. 02-631408. **LADIES' COAT** — full length, brown leather, lined, size 14, excellent condition, NIS 300. 02-863371. **CAS HATER** — Electra ES 5400, excellent condition, NIS 300. 02-344608. **ARTSCROLL SPARIM** — NIS 150; Mish-nayot Bava Metzra, NIS 35; Tractate Succa — Mishnayot, NIS 25. 02-519680. **SIGMA 18 MM** — wide-angle lens (not auto focus), Pentax 'K' mounting, new condition, NIS 250. 02-518111. **CEILING FIXTURE** — white with blue-grey floral design, like new, NIS 100. 02-514155. **LADIES' BOOTS** — black leather, NIS 60; exercise bike, NIS 150; men's leather coat, warm lining, NIS 100. 02-733067. **NEFT HEATER** — ALG, good condition, NIS 240. 02-524638. **DESKTOP** — desktop chair, 113 g. (4 oz), NIS 13 o.b.o.; Gyro II spermicide, 3.8 oz, NIS 22 o.b.o. 02-400566. **2 TAPE RECORDERS** — for collector, no charge, collect, evenings only. 02-580330. **HOW TO LEGALLY OBTAIN A 2ND CITIZENSHIP** — NIS 200. 02-724263. **JUDDO SUITS** — size 12-14, perfect, NIS 60; gear-range, 2 burners, one large, one small, like new, NIS 90; wool Shabbat coat, children's, NIS 50. 02-513654. **WALLPAPER** — tan with design, 3 rolls, NIS 70. 02-812850. **LADIES' WINTER COAT** — black, wool, size 14, Forstmann, NIS 250. 02-521252. **ELECTRIC STAPLE GUN** — new, 110V, NIS 300. 02-511230. **386-SX MOTHERBOARD** — with 1 MB, room for total 5 MB memory, NIS 250. 02-855742. **ROBITUSSIN DEXTROMETHORPHAN** — cough suppressant, still unavailable in Israel, 3 bottles, NIS 60 each. Jonathan, 02-233285. **MEN'S SUIT** — size 42/44, navy blue and brown, NIS 180. 02-710594. **FOLDING CHAIR BED** — NIS 100; trunk, black, 91, 55, 64 cm, NIS 40. 02-702911. **NAVY BAR-MITZVA SUIT** — as new,

worn twice, NIS 100; ladies' blazer, new, red, American, size 8 (size attached), NIS 150. 02-664315. **5 DECADES OF SONGS** — and discs from Spain and Latin America, original musicassettes, NIS 20 each. 02-561232. **WOOLEN SKIRT** — beige-brown, new, NIS 100; raincoat, very modish, English, NIS 100; short jacket, NIS 60. 02-253104. **BOOKS AND RECORDS** — 40 thrillers, 12 collections of plays, 25 audiocassettes, NIS 45 each; 20 philosophy and psychology NIS 59; 20 LP record classics, NIS 99. 617257. **WIDE CARRIAGE MANUAL TYPEWRITER** — NIS 150; leather sample case, NIS 50; men's leather jacket, small size, NIS 100. 02-815586. **PANASONIC TAPE/PHONOGRAPH/RADIO** — needs repair, and collection of classical records, NIS 100 o.b.o.; vegetable juicer for Kenwood Chef, NIS 60. 02-254308. **COMPUTER CHAIR** — on wheels, with knee rest, NIS 100; NTSC video *The Vanishing*, new, NIS 30. 02-282496. **MEDICINE CABINET** — American, attractive, NIS 300. 02-617872. **CLAIROL BENDERS TRAVEL SET** — 14 heated flexible hair curlers, NIS 130. 02-421146. **MEN'S SUIT** — small size, never worn, NIS 170. 02-235969. **AIRLINE PET CARRIER** — 45 cm wide, 62 cm long, 42 cm high, good condition, NIS 30. 02-258297. **HEAT LAMP** — professional, powerful, for relief of painful muscles and arthritis, NIS 250. 02-610027. **2-DRAWER FILE CABINET** — like new, NIS 200; carpet broom, NIS 25. 02-619838. **ENGLISH CROCKERY SET** — 8-piece, meaty, almost new, perfect condition, designed by Noritake, NIS 300. 02-518708. **TOILET SOAP** — old-fashioned pine tar, 5 bars, plus shampoo, NIS 50. 02-611976. **2 CURTAINS** — for living room and dining room, beige, NIS 150 for both. 02-353546. **B/W TV** — portable 21", Telefunken, NIS 300. Manual Pelias, 02-610732. **2 OVAL-SHAPED MIRRORS** — beveled, 60/23cm, NIS 120 each. 02-631281. **ENGLISH TYPEWRITER** — Olympia, portable, manual, perfect condition, NIS 250. 02-631281. **NS.**

WANTED

DONATIONS — of games (chess, cards, dominoes, etc.); 5 small square tables; movable TV stand, for olim pensioners' club. Alice, 02-721548. **MASTER OF HESTVIKEN** — by Sigrid Undset, to buy or borrow any volume of this 6-volume medieval romance. 03-642610. **OLD STOCK AND BOND CERTIFICATES** — 02-681732. **TABLES, CHAIRS** — clothes cupboard, other furniture in good condition, for Russian olim. Will pick up in Haifa area. Nechama, 04-382211. **STANDING CLOTHES RAIL** — to buy or rent. 02-864159; work. 02-932155. **FLING CABINETS** — 2, and 4-drawer, metal or wood. 02-518752. **VCR** — magnetic card for SR 52 calculator. 02-860113. **USED DRYER** — in good condition; table and chairs to seat 6 or more. 02-932155. **TELEVISION** — working, cheap. 02-249308. **FREEZER** — chest or upright, good working condition. 02-813325, afterwards and evenings. **SMALL REFRIGERATOR** — reasonable, in working condition. 02-665805. **ACTIVISTS** — interested in converting start him to shave him. Group forming for better understanding among Jews. Details: 02-864804, eve. **MICROSCOPE** — laboratory/research; microscope recorder, desk. 02-765335. **CASSETTE PLAYERS** — cassettes, for lonely/ready to bring some cheer. 02-824924, Judith or 02-813023, Rita. **"BRAINSTORM"** — video movie starring Natalie Wood. Does anyone know its Hebrew title? 02-287686. **VACUUM TUBE AMPLIFIER** — high fidelity, Dynaco or McIntosh, tubes, etc. 02-534681. **BUNK BEDS** — good condition. 02-858150. **NS.** **CAN YOU** — help me improve my singing? Leave your number for Shalom, 02-850551. **ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER** — 230v or PC computer and printer, to buy. 02-519369. **NS.** **RIBBON CARTRIDGES** — Smith-Corona, to buy. 02-916111. **PEG PEREGO** — stroller with sunroof, good condition; Futura plastic high chair. 02-935401.

WOODEN TABLE — large, with or without chairs; night table; wood or bamboo bookcase; file cabinet. 02-664445. **HEATEKIT AR-15** — receiver; classical LP records. 02-324681. **TELEVISION** — and/or video or video player for charity organization. 02-258754. **ELECTRIC OVEN** — color TV for kindergarten in Baka, free. 02-712390. **COMPUTER** — used MAC or PC with or without printer or software. 02-258754. **TYPEWRITER** — portable, light, almost new. 02-611105. **PIANO BENCH** — or stool, used. 02-858672. **SEWING MACHINE** — used, in good working condition. 02-710522. **RECORD PLAYER** — speakers, good condition. 02-669702. **AM/FM RADIO** — with dual tape player, speaker with CD player, for student. 02-973386. **STOREROOM FOR OLIM** — seeks electrical appliances, household goods (pots, pans, dishes, etc.), old furniture, etc. 25 Givat Shaul St., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 513524, will collect. **USED FURNITURE** — for Russian olim, will collect. Keren Kila, 782777. **NS.**

LOST & FOUND

FOUND — a sum of money on bus in Jerusalem, Motzai Shabbat Hanukka. 02-372257. **PETS** **3-MONTH-OLD KITTEN** — female, beautiful, affectionate, grey tabby. Free to good home. 02-320179. **SMALL PUPPIES** — adorable, free to good homes. 02-935995. **DOG** — female, black, classic, smart. 02-73203/289802. **BEAUTIFUL PUPPIES** — to warm home. 02-733771. **PERSIAN KITTEN (M)** — grey, 3 months; spayed female, striped with gold. 02-714007. **FOUND** — in Mevor Haim, female housecat, grey-white with beautiful peach-colored spots and necklaces. 02-734689/731634. **6-MONTH-OLD DOG** — female, small, trained, intelligent, loves kids and open space. 02-736356. **SEVERAL KITTENS AND CATS** — friendly, beautiful, some already neutered and vaccinated. Free to good homes. 283521, NS.

Sorry, no listings accepted without a coupon

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The price of each item must be stated

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Curiouser and curiouser

THE Islamic summit in Casablanca is one of those strange gatherings with the trappings of reality and the attitudes of characters from *Alice in Wonderland*. On those matters which truly concern them, Islamic states could well be used as a definition for the word "division." On things which are really none of their business, they are solidly united.

One of the matters which truly concern the Moslem leaders this year is Islamic fundamentalism. At least, it should deeply concern them, but what has emerged from the conference is that they are perturbed merely by the rotten image of Islam which the extremists are spreading across the world.

Debate on this most dangerous phenomenon of Islamic terrorism could not be aired in public yesterday, but disappeared behind closed doors. Of all the subjects that should least concern this 52-nation talking shop, Bosnia probably ranks highest. Yet it topped the agenda instead - for the marvelous opportunity it afforded the most undemocratic gathering in the world to indulge in an orgy of West-bashing.

To be sure, the failure of the democratic West and Russia to devise a solution for the conflict deserves - and receives - scathing criticism. But any thought that the Islamic nations are going to solve this essentially European problem is laughable. As the delegates soundly and unanimously trounced the West over Bosnia, not a voice was raised to suggest the issue of 20,000 dead in Algeria because a fundamentalist jihad against the secular authorities might be a more pertinent agenda-topper.

Of paramount concern to the great Islamic Republic of Iran was a truly surreal scenario - not only the world but the conference itself was being hijacked by Israel, of all countries. "I am worried that the leaders of the Moslem world

will be tricked into adopting a stance in the interests of the occupying Zionist regime," thundered Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who stayed home for that reason.

Perhaps the most sensible response to all this nonsense came from King Hussein, who quietly slipped away in disgust after the peace-loving conference solidly refused to endorse his agreement with Israel on Jordan's special interests in Jerusalem's Moslem holy places. The few other sensible comments about what should concern these leaders came from the host, King Hassan, and from Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

Mubarak lashed out at Islamic nations "selling themselves to the devil" and then blaming the West for their own sins of giving Islam a bad name. Hassan poured scorn on the plethora of jihads and "Islamic struggles" plaguing the region in the midst of peace processes.

The peace process gave the delegates the unique opportunity of issuing a declaration which contradicted itself. It paid lip service to the accords signed between Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan, but castigated Israel for its "maneuvers to halt implementation of the accords" and vowed to maintain the boycott. Missing from the agenda was any discussion on the disparity between the financial aid rendered to the Palestinian Authority by Israel and that not rendered by the Croesus-rich oil potentates sitting in Casablanca.

Even more curious in *Wonderland* terms was the declared aim of combating the "extremism and terrorism" that is giving Islam such a bad name. Except, of course, it may continue for "legitimate national struggles like resistance to Israeli occupation and aggression." In other words, apart from Dizengoff bus bombings, long live the peace process and the fight against terrorism.

Backing for Russia

WASHINGTON'S decision to back the Russian intervention in Chechnya must be more than welcome to President Boris Yeltsin. It is a clear recognition and useful reminder that democratic states - of which Russia is one of the newest and most welcome members - have their limits of tolerance.

Chechnya is a miserable, whining little nonentity strutting with the false braggadocio of the odd assortment of mafiosi, bandits, and inflated nationalists who run the place. Its lawlessness has been demonstrated throughout the year by the spate of hijackings, kidnappings, and gang wars that spilled over its borders and required the action of Russian police and special forces to solve. Its petty nationalists have meddled in neighboring Georgia, adding fuel to an ethnic conflict that almost wrecked that country.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher quite rightly pointed out that Yeltsin has acted with great patience and restraint in the three years since Chechnya's Dzhokhar Dudayev declared unilateral independence from the Russian Federation. Moscow has offered the noisy province as much autonomy and cultural respect as any member of a federation could desire - even far

more than states within Germany, Switzerland, or even the US.

The invasion of Chechnya has been carried out with determination but with maximum restraint. No one can hope for minimum bloodshed and a quick solution more than a president who has now to answer democratically to the relatives of his troops.

US State Department spokesman Michael McCurry was especially clear in describing the issue to reporters with the aid of a map. "See," he said, "the blue line is the territorial border of Russia, and just above that is Chechnya. I think we start ... with the understanding that Chechnya is an integral part of Russia - always has been - and therefore it is an internal matter."

Given the ramblings of the Islamic Summit in Casablanca about Moslem states wanting to get involved in Bosnia, and Dudayev's calls for Islamic help to set up a sharia-law based republic in Chechnya, it is time the free world called a halt. Meddlesome and mischievous fragmentation of the globe has its limits. There are more than enough republics of every size, politics, religion, and ethnic hue for anyone on earth to find a home without the addition of the likes of Chechnya.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEFINITION OF PEACE

Sir, - On December 10, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the troika of Arafat, Peres and Rabin.

During the 73 years of my life, I never doubted the meaning of the word peace. Was I mistaken for nearly three-quarters of a century?

I looked up the meaning of the word peace in Webster's Dictionary and here are some of the definitions I found: a state of security or order provided by law; harmony in human or personal relations; absence of hostilities or war; a pact or agreement to end hostilities or to come together in amity between those who have been at war or in a state of enmity or discussion; a formal reconciliation. Webster's will certainly have great difficulties in finding a reason or a basis for awarding the peace prize to this troika.

The Israeli public knows very little about the exact real content of the Oslo agreement and all the exchanges of letters which deal with the future and destiny of our homeland. I am under the impression that our two leaders themselves do not exactly understand what they signed and consequently what they have undertaken. They still do not realize the dangers which lie ahead.

The sincerity of Arafat can easily be compared to Hitler's. Until now, Arafat has not complied with a single item of the Oslo agreement. His speeches contain only complaints. On the other hand, Rabin and Peres only express prayers for peace and ignore Arafat's non-fulfillment of his commitments.

At the time that Rabin, Peres and Arafat were receiving their peace award, there were no festivities in Israel or the West Bank. On the contrary, in the territories, Palestinians were celebrating the eighth anniversary of the intifada and demonstrations were held, not in support of peace, but for the destruction of the State of Israel. Israeli flags were burned not only in Gaza, Judea and Samaria, but also in east Jerusalem.

I would suggest to Rabin and Peres not to talk too much about their Nobel Peace Prize. There is nothing to be proud of, but rather much to be ashamed of.

ISRAELI HILSBURG
Tel Aviv.

WONDERFUL TRIP TO HEBRON

Sir, - Kol hakvod to Nadia Matzar and the Women in Green for arranging a wonderful day trip to Hebron. Seven busloads of women and children (and a few husbands too) traveled from Ra'anana, Jerusalem, Ma'aleh Adumin and Gush Etzion to spend the day touring the Machpela Cave and the Avraham Avinu Quarter under the leadership of excellent guides.

Fellow Israelis: before purchasing that ticket to foreign parts, how about rediscovering your own heritage right here on your doorstep?

SHELLEY BLOOM
Elazar.

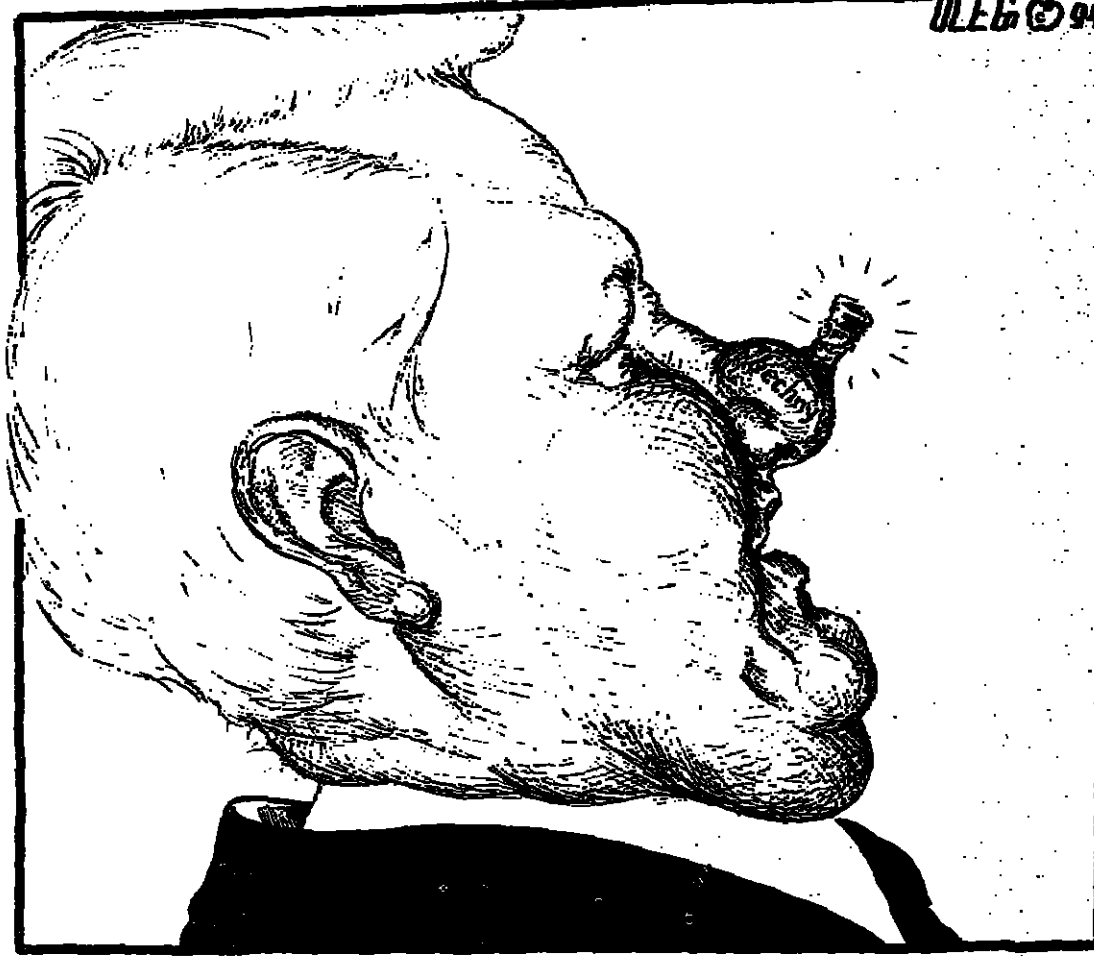
TODAY'S REALITY

Sir, - I object to the safety and security of the majority in this country being held to ransom by people unable to grasp reality. The settlements were established in a different time; times have changed, the settlements need to be moved out of what will soon be Palestine. Have no illusions: it will be Palestine, it will be a state and there will be borders. It is criminal of the settlers to expect soldiers to die defending them. It is criminal to knowingly subject children to the dangers of living in the settlements. It is criminal to subject the whole country to this personal and financial burden just because reality is beyond the understanding of the settlers. Ignorance may not be a crime; stubbornness may not be a crime, even stupidity is not a crime, but the consequences most definitely are.

If the settlements are moved out, the settlers move out, the soldiers move out, the border is secured; then, and only then, will we have security. Soldiers will defend the border and the border will keep out everyone who is a risk to the safety of Israel. At the moment, not one person in the country is immune to terrorist attacks (remember bus no. 5).

Unless we find the answers quickly, the future will be full of pain and sadness. Now is the time to show to the world that Israel is a country that can make the decision required for peace.

RODNEY ENNOR
Hazerim.



Sunk deep in the mud

MAJ. Gen. Amiram Levine, the new O/C Northern Command, came straight to the point after visiting soldiers who had been wounded in Lebanon at Rambam Hospital last Sunday. "Israel should take the initiative," he said.

There was intense satisfaction from senior officers and security men who have for months criticized the frozen Maginot-line defensive posture imposed on the IDF by Prime Minister Rabin and Chief of Staff Ehud Barak.

Army professionals were unanimous in their approval of Levine, whose forte is outstanding ingenuity in battle, as the man to deal with the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. Levine has always followed the doctrine of seizing the initiative, even under the most unfavorable conditions.

The deaths of two Israeli soldiers and the wounding of eight others, as well as the slaying of eight South Lebanese Army men since Levine took command, certainly indicate a state of crisis.

The situation in the security zone can be gauged by the way Palestinians are joining terrorist groups there. They want to fight alongside their Hizbullah heroes, particularly as they feel safe with Israeli soldiers pinned down in their defensive fortifications.

The terrorists' self-confidence is boosted because Israelis are forbidden to launch surprise or deterrent raids. They believe that the lion of Judah which once roared has been reduced to a paper tiger.

The hero of these Palestinians and Hizbullah men is no longer Saddam Hussein, but Syria's Hafez Assad, who is standing tough in his demand that Israel immediately pull out from the entire Golan Heights. The Syrian dictator openly defies even the US.

Within hours of Warren Christopher's recent visit to Damascus, he had passed on and supported Rabin's demand that Syria halt all Hizbullah attacks.

But no sooner had Christopher departed than Assad winked at his Hizbullah sidekicks. Within hours, heavy attacks were launched against the already demoralized SLA fighters.

Defiantly, Assad also cocked a snook at both Washington and Jerusalem by again seizing the

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

initiative from the shackled IDF and striking in the Marjayoun area, the very heart of the Lebanese "security" zone.

Syrian intelligence, we discovered, told Assad: the more Israelis that are killed, the greater and faster will concessions be squeezed out of the perpetually retreating Rabin.

For a few brief moments, Gen. Levine's words at the hospital in Haifa brought new hope to the army. Surely, senior officers thought, Israel will now take the initiative and revert to its classical tactic of hitting the terrorists where it hurts them most, striking Hizbullah hard in their village nests and headquarters deep in the Bek'a Valley.

Israel is paying the price of its policy in Lebanon a decade ago

But, from far-off Japan, Rabin poured cold water on army expectations. Although he didn't mention him by name, he slapped Gen. Levine on the wrist by stating "There are no targets to retaliate against."

The premier added that when Israel took the initiative, seized terrorist chief Mustafa Dirani and bombed a Hizbullah base, the Hizbullah responded in Buenos Aires and London.

RABIN'S FRAME of mind was clear: He was at a total loss over what could be done to stop Israeli's playing the role of sitting ducks. Nothing must upset Assad and the "peace process," he and Peres are still trying to get going with Damascus.

Army men, particularly those with long memories, are distressed. Senior officers told us: "Haven't we, for over 50 years, always found answers to difficult and unconventional problems?"

"The Entebbe rescue operation on July 3, 1976, astounded the world. When Rabin ordered the operation, he said: 'If an officer in our army isn't capable of handling a difficulty, we'll find

somebody else to do it.'"

Today's nightmarish situation, with Hizbullah experiencing an ever-increasing feeling of triumph, is heightened by the knowledge that SLA men fear they are about to be abandoned by Rabin. If the premier is ready to sacrifice his own Jewish settlers on the Golan Heights, they say, why should he care about them?

Hizbullah successes are all the sweeter to the terrorists, as they detect the dwindling morale among young IDF soldiers so painfully demonstrated at Dabsha recently. This is all the more acute as they are forbidden to initiate any attacks.

The roots of the current situation in Lebanon are deeply embedded in the winter of 1984-5, when prime minister Peres and defense minister Rabin, in the so-called national unity government, ordered a withdrawal by Israeli forces following the Lebanon war. "We'll pull Israel out of the Lebanese mud," they promised.

It was the right decision. But so frantic were Peres and Rabin to score a political victory over their lame-duck Likud "partners" that they ordered the withdrawal to proceed as fast as possible.

Instead of following the advice of the professionals, which was to create a defensive zone deep enough to prevent rockets being fired into Israel, orders were given to make the security zone as small as possible.

The Rabin-Peres promise was never fulfilled. Over the past decade, many thousands of Israeli troops have wallowed in the Lebanese mud. In the last two years alone, 47 Israeli soldiers have died there.

Rabin cannot blame his political rivals. He has been defense minister for eight of the 10 years since 1984.

In the Peres-Rabin policy of the time, political considerations were placed above strictly military criteria. Today both men, adorned with their glittering new Nobel Peace medals, are still playing politics as the number of dead and wounded young Israeli soldiers in Lebanon continues to rise.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

POSTSCRIPTS

AN ARGENTINIAN shot himself four times in the head and twice in the stomach but survived his suicide bid.

Alberto Gama started out by shooting himself in the right temple with a .22 gun. He tried again, then shot through the forehead and again through the right side of his head.

With four bullets in his skull, he shot himself twice in the stomach. He was admitted to hospital in serious condition, and very embarrassed.

SOME OF Ukraine's increasingly worthless interim karbovanets currency are being recycled as toilet paper.

Each month, a paper mill in Dnipropetrovsk is turning about 35 tons of old banknotes into such items as toilet rolls and wrapping paper.

"We get top quality paper from the bank notes. Only the color - blue, pink or green - gives away what it once was," said the director of the paper mill.

In mid-November, a dollar was worth 135,000 karbovanets.

Wrong label

REUVEN SOBEL

WITH suicide bombings by Islamic fanatics, carnage on our roads and thrill killings by teenagers, the last thing Israel needs is the world's most liberal euthanasia law.

Given the history of the Jewish people, it seems almost sick to contemplate the very idea of euthanasia. But it is critical to distinguish between killing and (at the most) letting die, between playing God and being a physician.

Several weeks ago, *The Jerusalem Post* published an article on Israel's new, so-called "euthanasia law." More recently (November 24), Herb Keiron reported on the reaction of four hard-core halachic authorities to the "euthanasia law."

The rabbis ruled "that doctors cannot withhold medical treatment from terminally ill patients" and "that it is forbidden to speed up the patient's death, to lessen his suffering, by withholding treatment."

Unfortunately, both articles conflated euthanasia with the physician's moral obligation to respect a competent patient's rational refusal of therapy.

The patient was rational. He refused treatment and died. It wasn't euthanasia

The following case illustrates the distinction. Although not a real case, it is derived from my experience as a primary-care physician. It is based on Gert and colleagues' (*Hastings Center Reports* 24, 1994:13-15) lucid explication of the distinction between the refusal to be treated and the request to be helped to die.

Eitan, a 32-year-old happily married father of three, was a highly respected physician who had, in his words, "been dealt a bad genetic deck of cards."

On his father's side, everyone had died of a heart attack by age 50. On his mother's side, there was a high incidence of early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Eitan was overweight, slightly hypertensive, markedly hypercholesterolemic. He had smoked two packs a day since the age of 20.

After a discussion of these risk factors, he refused my advice for either drug therapy or a change of life-style. He didn't want "my body to outlive my mind."

This fateful refusal may have shortened Eitan's life, but it was rational. His mental competence was not in question. No one would label this scenario euthanasia or assisted suicide.

TEN YEARS later, following his second major heart attack, his heart now a weak rag, Eitan had been at home for a week but was bedridden and short of breath.

Discharged from hospital "against advice" by the cardiologist, he refused both intravenous medications and a cardiac-assist device, and was unwilling to be considered for cardiac transplantation.

He did accept fluid pills, oxygen and morphine. His worsening breathlessness demanded increasing doses of morphine over the next two days. On his ninth day at home fever developed, but he refused antibiotics. A day later, he died.

This was not euthanasia, assisted suicide, playing God, or killing. What happened did not call for media attention, lawyers, judges, court orders, halachic rulings or the new euthanasia law.

While the physician should not honor a patient's request to be killed by the physician, he is morally obliged to honor a competent patient's rational refusal of treatment. This applies to treatment as dramatic as the amputation of a gangrenous limb or as commonplace as antibiotic therapy; as extraordinary as organ transplantation or as ordinary as fluids.

The physician can neither abandon the patient nor overrule a rational refusal by a competent individual. The issue is not euthanasia, it is autonomy. When "leave me alone" is the rational refusal of treatment by a competent adult, then the refusal must be honored - even if death is a foreseeable outcome.

This is the physician's moral obligation; it is not playing God.

The writer is professor at the Ben-Gurion University School of Applied Health Sciences.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Californian Rusty Morgan makes his point as he demonstrates against a law requiring motorcyclists to wear safety helmets. (AP)

Long-distance courting leads to busy signal

DEAR RUTHIE

RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
I have been a widow for 27 years. My children are all married and living abroad.

Recently, a friend introduced me to a widower from California. We met three days before he was to return to the US, but since we hit it off, we promised to be in touch. He even said he would call me upon arriving home.

But after 10 days, I called him. We decided to alternate phoning one another every week. I kept my end of the bargain, but he did not.

When I told him I'd be coming to California in a few months to visit my children, he seemed pleased, but I'm still not sure what he's thinking. I fear that the wife of the person who introduced us has been discouraging him from letting our relationship develop. What must I do to keep this friendship?

Wooing Widow in Woe
Tel Aviv

Dear WW in W,

Don't go to California especially to see him. But if you are there anyway, look him up. Perhaps then you'll be able to judge better the nature of his feelings for you.

It would be a good idea for you to examine your own as well. Though you may have hit it off during your first and only meeting, it was hardly ample time for you to be planning a future with him.

Whether the wife of the friend who introduced you is trying to discourage him is irrelevant. Such meddling usually carries little weight when genuine interest is there. Perhaps you misinterpreted his signals.

Or maybe he is simply wary of keeping in touch with someone so far away. If any serious relationship is to develop, one of you will have to pack up and move. Proximity makes courting a lot less monumental.

Dear Ruthie,

My father has always been a domineering man. I'm afraid to stand up to him even now, though I have three grown children. My problem is that my youngest son is in his final year of business school, and my father has decided that his grandson will join the family business as soon as he gets his degree. But my son doesn't want this kind of career.

I feel terrible because I am too

cowardly to tell my father to stop pressuring my son. What can I do?

Poltroonish Parent
Somewhere in Israel

Dear PP,

The most important thing is to tell your son how you feel. Whether this knowledge will help him stand up for himself, only time will tell.

But you owe it to him to let him know you are on his side - even if it means revealing your weaknesses.

As for your own problem with your father: If you really wish to "grow out" of your childhood, you may need professional help. If you have not succeeded in shifting the balance of power by now, you probably won't be able to do so without assistance.

Dear Ruthie,

My nine-year-old son spends his allowance every week on the latest fad called "Poogim." He spends it all as soon as he gets it, to add to his already huge collection of these little cardboard circles. Then he takes these things to school, and often loses many of them while playing with his friends.

I feel it is a total waste of money. Furthermore, he has begun complaining that he has no money for other things. Can I start to limit his purchases, even though I made a previous decision to let him make his own choices?

Indecisive Dad
Jerusalem

Dear Indecisive,

That depends on what your motive was in allocating a set allowance. If you wanted him to learn how to budget his bundle, then let him spend it on Poogim to his heart's content - but remain firm about not giving him extra money for movies, say. If other things are important enough to him, he will start taking them into account when payday comes around.

If, however, giving him pocket money was a way of budgeting yourself in relation to his entertainment expenses, then you can sit down with him and renegotiate the terms of your contract.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

Home-cooked meals on tour in Galilee

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

GALILEE Culinary Tours, complete with home-cooked meals, are being featured by Hajep Hagili, a company which offers tailor-made outings. Among the options are authentic Arab meals, with varied homemade dairy products or meat cooked in an earthen oven, or meals in Jewish homes with such delicacies as home-baked bread and stuffed vegetables. Visits to Druse or Beduin homes are also an option.

The company can accommodate groups of up to 60 people. The price for a jeep holding a maximum of seven passengers is \$165 for a half-day tour and \$265 for a full-day tour. Meals cost from \$14 to \$28 per person. For further information, call 06-937764.

A WEEKEND of active adventure is promised in a mountain-desert safari package designed by Mitzpe Tours, in conjunction with the Kiryat Anavim Guest House near Jerusalem. The two-night package, which includes a visit to the Dead Sea, a desert tour and a mountain barbecue, sells for NIS 515. The number for Mitzpe Tours is 09-989405.

THE TEL AVIV Carlton Hotel now has a GMC Safari limousine for its guests, with chauffeur, telephone and minibar. Prices range from \$15 for an hour to \$100 for a 12-hour day, while transport to the airport, including delivery of the passenger and his or her luggage at the airline counter, costs \$25.

MALEV, the Hungarian airlines, has a special Tel Aviv-Budapest round-trip fare of \$455. The company is represented here by Airtour.

Meanwhile, Holidays Travel is offering a package for \$499 which includes round-trip airfare to Budapest and either three nights in the Hotel Forum or four nights in the Hotel Casino.

ALITALIA is offering a group fare to Casablanca of \$594, round trip via Rome. The company's lowest individual fare is \$778.

ARKIA HAS published its winter ski brochure with information about ski packages to Cyprus, Switzerland, Austria and France. Prices are given in dollars for the package itself, as well as for ski passes, equipment rental, skiing lessons and car rental. Prices, including airfare, start at \$355 for three nights, half board, in Cyprus.

OVERSEAS VISITORS to China still cannot visit Tibet on their own, according to Travel China, a fortnightly English newspaper sponsored by the China National Tourism Administration. Individual travelers wishing to visit Tibet must join a tour group organized by the China Travel Service Golmud Branch and take a bus arranged by the Golmud office of the Tibet Shengdi Transportation Travel Service. The two bodies each issue a certificate which travelers must have to enter Tibet, the paper notes.

Quebec: A tale of two antique cities

TRAVEL

ADAM HORVATH

STREET musicians were playing Bruce Springsteen. Plaid shirts were on sale at The Gap. Most people spoke English with a smile.

But I swear - I swear - it felt as if I were in Paris the whole time.

Actually, it felt like two Paris: one that was tiny and old and romantic, and one that was big and bustling and romantic.

Quebec City was the antique Paris, with its Disney-like historic district of narrow streets and pale stone buildings nearly unchanged since its days as a French colony 250 years ago. Every turn down a mysterious alley brought a new feeling of walking into the past - and I could not stop walking.

Montreal was the expansive Paris of elegant neighborhoods dotted with interesting cafes - but with a glass-towered downtown and a mountain in the middle of the city.

Either city was a Paris with a difference - Paris without the attitude, Paris without the expense. And here, at least, someone was always happy to translate.

Montreal and Quebec City straddle two eras just as they have had to straddle two languages and two cultures. Each stands at a strategic point along the St. Lawrence River, just 240 km. apart, and each was settled by the French in the mid-17th century and captured by the British 100 years later. Each clings proudly to its French beginnings. Montreal is where people go to retreat from Toronto. To retreat from Montreal, you go to Quebec.

Quebec is an amazing enclave of history, the only city in North America to preserve its original city walls. The walls were built to keep out the British, who overran the place in a battle lasting just 20 minutes. But now they do a much better job of keeping out the modern world of commercial high-rises and preserving the old city as a living museum.

Montreal is a bustling metropolis: though it's packed with just as much history, its grand mansions and churches survive among modern towers, and sometimes only the original facades remain.

The difference in the cities' development can be summed up like this: in Montreal, a wonderful archeological museum shows off the excavation of the city's first settlement, with holograms and colored lights guiding you



A carriage, waiting in front of Montreal's oldest church, Notre Dame de Bon Secours, offers a tour of the old city. (Courtesy Montreal City Hall)

through the basements of ruined 17th century buildings as if they were Egyptian crypts.

In Quebec City, most of those buildings are still standing.

My breath went a little shallow from the moment I arrived in Quebec and saw its old Parisian-style stones. It was after 10 p.m. and I had plenty to see without leaving the grounds of my historic hotel, the 100-year-old Chateau Frontenac whose turrets and chimneys dominate the skyline of the old city. But I strolled out

onto the Dufferin Terrace on the edge of the bluff that divides the city into an "Upper Town" and "Lower Town." I saw a city with history attached to virtually every building - from the Seminaire du Quebec with its 1773 sundial to the windows where British troops shot at Benedict Arnold when the American army invaded in 1776.

I walked the stairways up and down the bluff - including the "Breakneck Stairway" that has been rebuilt to stop living up to its name. I walked the rolling

Plains of Abraham, now a huge riverside park comprising the battlefield where the fate of the city was decided in 20 minutes. I walked the oldest commercial street on the continent, Rue du Petit Champlain, right around the corner from its 17th century counterpart, Place Royale, where the first Quebec fur traders built their mansions on the site of Samuel Champlain's first settlement.

I walked the city walls, and the walls of the star-shaped Citadel fort, built by the British after

their conquest of the city to keep the French citizens in line as well as the French army out.

Every time you turn a corner of the maze, a cannon may be staring you down.

I MOVED from a Quebec hotel that I never lost sight of, to one in Montreal that no cabdriver could find - a tiny inn over an art gallery that was just around the corner from where the city was founded in historic "Vieux Montreal." Because Montreal is a city with a much bigger "to-do" list, a carriage ride rather than a walk was called for - or we could have spent all our time among the domes, steeples and mansard roofs of Rue Notre Dame and the surrounding streets.

For less than \$30, our carriage driver gave us a one-hour tour that circled the old downtown, the waterfront, and the sloping Place Jacques Cartier, with time to walk around the glorious Notre Dame basilica, whose twin Gothic towers are the center attraction of the district.

From there, we hopped on Montreal's metro to the rows and rows of ornate Victorian houses in the St. Laurent/St. Denis neighborhoods. Here, the "Latin Quarter" includes an elegant restaurant row alongside the University of Quebec at Montreal.

There we had our first encounter with Montreal's odd compromises with history: the dramatic St. James Cathedral spire remains, but the rest of the building is gone - replaced by a corridor leading to a modern university building.

We ran into the same idea the next day along the "Golden Square Mile" of Sherbrooke Street, where grand 19th century mansions survive next to new luxury hotels and corporate towers. Some of the old buildings near McGill University survive only as facades, incorporated into the modern buildings to preserve just a hint of history.

The strangest juxtaposition sits atop the city's sprawling network of subterranean shopping malls known as "Underground Montreal," built to let Montrealers escape the cold and snow that plague them up to eight months of the year. The newest section is called "Le Promenades de Cathedrale"; it emanates from the basement of 1859 Christ Church Cathedral and adopts a neo-Gothic motif. A skyscraper built on the church's airspace does the same; the overall effect is not exactly spiritual. (Newsday)

As pharaoh's soldier stumbles to manhood

IN PHARAOH'S ARMY by Tobias Wolff. Knopf. \$23.

WHEN we last caught up with Tobias Wolff, he had escaped the clutches of his brutal stepfather, gotten kicked out of the prep school he had cheated his way into, and joined the army.

"All I needed," he wrote in his searing 1989 autobiography, *This Boy's Life*, "was a war."

Now Wolff has written a new memoir, about what happened when he got the war - Vietnam - that he wished for. The book, filled with both humor and horror, has been nominated for a National Book Award.

At 49, Wolff is a trim man who wears wire-frame glasses, sports a gray mustache and has the thoughtful demeanor of a professor (he teaches at Syracuse University). He seems a far cry from the clever but rebellious adolescent portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio in last year's film version of *This Boy's Life*, which also starred Robert De Niro as Toby's cruel, petty stepfather and Ellen Barkin as his mother. Any air of delinquency appears to have evaporated long ago.

Wolff talked about his new book and experiences in Vietnam during a recent stop in Madison, Connecticut, where he gave a reading.

While perhaps best known for his memoirs, Wolff is also an accomplished short-story writer, and this fall his name is on two other new books: as editor of both *The Best American Short Stories 1994* (Houghton Mifflin) and *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories* (Vintage).

In his latest memoir, young Tobias continues on the rocky road to manhood. He has a volatile love affair with an unstable young woman, manages a reconciliation with his real father, is made an officer and gets shipped to Vietnam as an adviser to a South Vietnamese battalion.

In *Pharaoh's Army* may surprise a generation weaned on Oliver Stone movies and horror stories about soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder. The brutality and terror of war are here, but so are the sort of absurd incidents that seem to occur only in wartime.

Lt. Wolff and his sidekick Sgt. Benet barter for a TV so they can watch the Thanksgiving episode of *Bonanza*; Wolff adopts a hapless puppy that meets a perverse fate. But Wolff, who saw little combat, also portrays the close calls: the danger from snipers and mines and the uncertain protection afforded by the "luck of the draw." Friends get killed. During the Tet offensive, Wolff learned an ugly lesson about the war: that even civilians weren't safe. "We would kill every last one of them to save our own skins," he writes.

UNTIL HE finished *This Boy's Life* and found himself writing a short story about Vietnam, Wolff had allowed the war to remain a shadowy presence, an event he had never really confronted. After he finished the story, he began writing a nonfiction account of his Vietnam experiences. It took him four years - "and a lot of false starts and side roads" - to finish *Pharaoh's Army*.

Wolff says he was not as traumatized by Vietnam as some men he knew, but, he adds: "I couldn't have handled any more than I had to handle."

When he returned to America, he was 22 years old, at a loose end, and "had a lot of problems," including nightmares, difficulty sleeping and an awkwardness with people. He left for England and was admitted to Oxford University. "I really was trying to put Vietnam out of my mind," Wolff says.

While Wolff says he wrote *Pharaoh's Army* to show that Vietnam did not have "final authority" over his life, he wanted to explore the war's impact.

BOOKS

JOCELYN McCLURG

"What happens to a person who is forced to go through an experience like this?" Wolff asks. "What kind of a citizen are we going to bring home from that experience? What are the stresses on their character? How do they maintain their integrity? How do they put themselves back together afterwards?"

Ironically, Wolff, who decided as a teenager that he would be a writer, was hungry for "real" experiences, and he thought the army and war were the best places to find them.

"It seemed to me it would feed my bank of experience that I thought every writer needed to have in order to write," Wolff says. "Of course, the writers I was looking up to were writers like Mailer, Irwin Shaw, James Jones and especially Hemingway. There was a real cult of experience among these writers, and I bought into it completely as a young man."

Wolff says he now realizes that "you don't have to follow this road to be a good writer."

However, you may need such material to write good memoirs. Wolff, the father of three, says *Pharaoh's Army* will be his last memoir. The kinds of "excitements" he's had in his life since the war have been more "spiritual and intellectual" and lend themselves more to fiction than memoir, he says.

He is now completing a new collection of stories and is eager to begin a novel.

But both Wolff and his brother, writer Geoffrey Wolff, have answered the lure of memoir. Geoffrey Wolff wrote *The Duke of Deception*, which depicted the Wolffs' father as an unrepentant con man. In Tobias Wolff's new memoir, his father is older, out of prison, "a different person." "He was very tender, and he and I were able to become very good

friends," Wolff says.

Why has Wolff turned to memoir? Is it an attempt to reconcile the past, to come to know himself better?

"I think partly it is to recapture that sense of hopefulness and that sense of limitless possibility that you have as a young person," Wolff says. "To reawaken the best things that I had as a boy, as a young man. To get in proper alignment with the memories. To see them not in a mythical or conventional way but actually to confront experience honestly and try to understand something of how that experience produced the person that I am now."

And while Wolff claims in

Pharaoh's Army will be the last time he examines his life through a nonfiction lens, he's ready again to gather real-life experience.

"I have an 'itch,'" Wolff confesses with a smile. "I have been a very good boy for the last 20 years or so, and I'm getting itchy again. I want to do some traveling. I want to go to some disagreeable places and be uncomfortable a bit again. Comfort has a way of putting scales on you, and I want to do something that scours those off a little bit. To make myself a little more raw to the world again."

(The Hartford Courant)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1994

Carmel Carpets liquidators ask court to fine Shapiras

THE liquidators of Carmel Carpets yesterday asked the Tel Aviv District Court to order MK Avraham Shapira and his wife Tova to pay a NIS 8.17 million fine.

Attorney Yossef Cohen and accountant Ovidia Blass accused the Shapira family of fraud while running the firm, which has since been sold to the Etani family.

The appeal was filed in an at-

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

tempt to prevent the Shapiras from selling off assets.

The liquidators plan to file a NIS 1 billion suit against the Shapiras soon. Judge Uri Goren ruled to place a temporary freeze on Shapira's homes in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

They said the Shapiras recently

sold property in Bnei Brak, which they said was an attempt to get around a court verdict fining them.

The liquidators claimed the Shapiras illegally took NIS 4.17m. out of the conglomerate.

In addition, they said the Sha-

piras should be fined NIS 4m. for their actions.

The liquidators have also asked the court to charge Ararat, the company which insured the conglomerate, NIS 4.17m.

Cohen and Blass claimed Ararat cooperated with Shapira in an attempt to cheat the conglomerate and its creditors out of money.

Tadiran delays offering

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

world markets.

In an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Tadiran said the issue was postponed because of conditions currently prevailing on the US and Israeli capital markets.

In reaction, Koor's shares yesterday fell one percent on a relatively high turnover of NIS 7 million.

Tadiran chairman of the board Benny Gaon and managing direc-

tor Yisrael Zamir postponed the offering after the company's shares fell below \$19 on the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday.

After negotiating with underwriters, Gaon and Zamir agreed it is not worthwhile to issue at current market prices, which are below the firm's market value.

Tadiran said it has not yet decided whether to go ahead with its plans to register its shares for trading on the TASE. The company will inform the public of its plans by January 3.

Euro Disney cuts prices, says number of visitors up

PARIS (Reuters) - Euro Disney said yesterday it would cut ticket prices for entry to its loss-making theme park outside Paris from April and added that the number of visitors drawn to its Magic Kingdom had risen this year.

The news sent its shares, battered by two years of company losses and poor attendance figures, soaring by seven percent on the Paris bourse before falling back slightly.

Euro Disney said it would cut prices in the high season, running from April to October 1, to FR 195 (NIS 108) for an adult from between FR 225 and FR 250 (NIS 124.50 to NIS 138).

Visitors would pay less to see Mickey Mouse and his friends in the cold winter months, which have prompted Euro Disney's critics to say it was sited in the wrong continent.

The low-season price starting on October 2 would fall to FR 150 (NIS 83.10) from FR 175 to FR 225 (NIS 97 to NIS 124.50) at present, the company said in a statement.

Chairman Philippe Bourguignon said the price cuts were "a limited risk on the downside and represent a significant potential gain."

He said the company was on track to break even in its 1995/1996 financial year after losing FR 1.8 billion (NIS 996 million) in 1993/94.

Euro Disney saved FR 500m. (NIS 276m.) last year, thanks to a productivity drive launched in the summer in which employees spotted savings and changed working practices.

Its bankers completed a debt restructuring earlier this year, culminating in a FR6b. (NIS 3.3b.) share issue in which Saudi Prince Waleed bin-Talal bought a 24% stake in the firm.

Gov't completes sale of Shekem to Elco

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Government Companies Authority completed the sale of Shekem when it transferred the 35 percent controlling stake to Elco for NIS 167 million yesterday.

The transfer of the shares was delayed for two days due to disagreements between the authority and Shekem workers on the disposition of the NIS 20m. worker compensation fund.

The workers refused to sign an agreement to abide by the agreed upon regulations for the fund, according to Government Companies Authority director Yossi Nitzani.

To avoid delaying further the completion of the sale, Nitzani decided to deposit the money in a special account at the Treasury.

Nitzani explained that the government gave the workers the money to take care of those that may lose their jobs as a result of the change in ownership.

"I insist that the money only be used for that purpose and not any other purposes," he said. "These are public funds and not the workers committee's private bank."

The government agreed to transfer the fund's management to the workers based on mutually agreed regulations. Nitzani warned that if the workers do not come back to him to resolve the issue, he will distribute the money equally among all of Shekem's workers.

Under the regulations, the money remaining in the fund after three years will be distributed among the workers. However, if there is no agreement, Nitzani



Outgoing Shekem board chairman Tzvi Aldrotti (right) hands the chain's gold key to incoming chairman Gershon Zelkind, who was appointed to the job yesterday by the shareholders (IPPA)

can pay out the funds at any time.

At yesterday's Shekem shareholders meeting, Elco owner Gershon Zelkind was appointed

chairman of the board.

Following the sale, Shekem was officially taken off the list of government firms. With the con-

version of outstanding warrants held by the public into shares, the government will have completely divested itself of the company.

Harish warns of impending recession

JOSE ROSENFELD

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Micha Harish yesterday warned of a recession next year if the government fails to deal with rising inflation and interest rates, an overvalued shekel and an anemic stock market.

Harish, who presented his ministry's 1995 budget to the Knesset Finance Committee, contrasted the challenges facing the economy next year with the impressive growth of the past two years.

"I have no doubt that if we don't contend with all these problems - the stock market, interest rates and the exchange rate - we will face the danger of a recession in the middle or the end of 1995," said Harish.

Throughout the year, the stock market has failed to fulfill its functions, according to Harish. "There is no stock market for raising capital, no stock market for investments, no stock market for privatization."

Consequently, Harish has been calling for the cabinet to get involved. He said, therefore, he was happy to see that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will hold a meeting on the stock market when he returns from South Korea.

"Let me emphasize [the meeting will be] on

the stock market and not just on the stock market tax," Harish said. "The stock market tax is not the issue; the stock market itself is the issue."

The government should sit with experts to determine how to bring the stock market out of the doldrums, since it is an important instrument for raising the capital necessary for growth, he said.

The ministry's subsidies budget for industrial development will grow by nearly a third next year to NIS 2.16 billion, compared with NIS 1.63b. this year.

"In general, businesses are optimistic - which translates into investments for the future and, in part, in an encouraging trend of a growing number of companies asking for support for research and development," Harish told the committee.

He pointed to the vast improvement in the ministry's Investment Center's performance record concerning the number of investments that were actually carried out.

In 1991, only \$576 million in investments were carried out in the first 10 months of the year, in contrast to \$1.2b. during the same period this year. Out of those amounts, \$507m. and \$1b. respectively, were industrial investments.

Union Bank of Switz. expects good performance from TASE

NEIL COHEN

UNION Bank of Switzerland expects a strong performance from the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, the bank's research team said in a recent note.

The note deals specifically with the major Israeli holding companies traded on the TASE and in New York - Africa Israel, Clal Industries, Clal Israel, Discount Investment Corporation (DIC), IDB Development, IDB Holding, Israel Corporation, Koor, Ampal and PEC.

It recommends buying shares in Africa Israel, DIC, Israel Corporation and Koor.

Africa Israel has been the best earnings performer in 1994 and has the best exposure to the local economy, according to UBS analysts.

However UBS cautioned that profits are dependent on continued house-price inflation, and the share price may be vulnerable to pressure from forthcoming share issues.

Although DIC has suffered from securities trading losses, new investments offer upside, and the company has solid asset backing and trade at a discount to net assets of more than 20 percent, UBS said.

The Israel Corporation should be a beneficiary from the privatization process, while Koor's attractions are its low rating and good asset backing, UBS said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Electronic equipment firms want 5%-7% devaluation of shekel: A five to seven percent devaluation of the shekel against the dollar is needed to help electrical and electronic equipment companies compete on overseas markets, the Manufacturers Association said yesterday. Electrical and electronic equipment companies fear the sector's profits from exports will fall in 1995-1997 unless the shekel is devalued. The manufacturers said there is a 12% gap between the rise in the Consumer Price Index and the dollar.

"The difference has reduced the electronics sectors' profits by \$140 million and hindered firms' ability to compete abroad," said Moshe Or-Tase, chairman of the electronics division.

The electronics sectors' exports are expected to reach \$3.75 billion this year, up 17% from 1993. Civilian exports increased 26% this year to \$2.8b., while defense exports remained virtually unchanged at \$950m. The sharpest rise was in communication product exports, which went up 40% to \$855m.

Sbarro to open restaurants here: Sbarro, an international fast food pizza chain, plans to open five restaurants here by the end of 1996 at an investment of \$3 million, the firm announced yesterday.

Sbarro awarded the Israeli franchise to Tuxidan - a company jointly owned by Yohai Peleg, manager and owner of Tuxedo, and Karden Investments, an investment holding company traded on the stock exchange. The decision to open restaurants here is part of Sbarro's plans to develop its international activities. Sbarro currently operates 800 restaurants worldwide, in the US, Europe and the Middle East.

The first restaurant is scheduled to open in Tel Aviv in four months, and Tuxidan plans to have 15 operating within five years. The restaurants will offer a dairy menu - including pizza, stuffed pizza, pasta, calzone, sandwiches, salads and beverages.

Elit Grapes, Kibbutz Ayalot invest \$2 million in vineyard: Elit Grapes, in partnership with Kibbutz Ayalot, has invested \$2 million in their 500-dunam vineyard in the South. The developers plan to export the grapes to Europe. The first crops are scheduled for export in 16 months.

Polish bank interested in doing business here: Powszechna Kasa Oszczednosci Bank Panstwowy, one of the largest banks in Poland, is interested in doing business with Israel. Bank Leumi reported it recently hosted president of the bank, Andrzej Topinski. The bank said Topinski was interested in the development of the economy here due to the peace process.

Oralspring signs distribution agreement with Babyllis: Oralspring, the developer of the oralspring-plus electronic tooth brush, has signed a distribution agreement with Babyllis, a French company. Babyllis has agreed to distribute oralspring tooth brushes in Holland.

Warshavsky, Lent get new Maximedia positions: Maximedia this week named group general manager Eli Warshavsky deputy chairman of the board of directors for investment activity abroad. Avi Lent, who served as the group's deputy finance director, replaces him as general manager.

Small banks charge businesses higher interest than large banks: Small banks charge business accounts 10 percent to 15% more interest than the larger banks, according to Sagi, a company engaged in calculating interest payments on behalf of bank customers. The company recently completed a survey on more than 100 businesses - including construction, trade, industry and service companies.

Sagi said small banks like Bank Otzar Haahyal, Mercantile Discount, Union Bank, American-Israel and the Arab-Israel Bank charge 10%-15% more interest than the five large banks - Leumi, Discount, Hapoalim, Mizrahi and First International Bank. The company said business customers currently pay large banks 17% prime interest, in addition to 2.5% interest on borrowing in excess of the approved line of credit. The small banks charge 4.2%-5% interest on borrowing in excess of the approved line of credit.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (15.12.94)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.525	6.125	6.275	
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.875	5.375	5.125	
German mark (DM 250,000)	4.825	4.825	5.000	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.125	3.375	3.750	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	1.000	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (14.12.94)				
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES	
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.2520	3.2550	2.94	3.3474
U.S. dollar	2.9925	3.0347	2.94	3.0167
German mark	1.9050	1.9318	1.87	1.9194
French franc	4.6785	4.7444	4.58	4.7120
Japanese yen (100)	0.5527	0.5604	0.52	0.5558
Dutch guilder	2.9798	3.0217	2.95	3.0033
Swiss franc	1.7010	1.7248	1.67	1.7144
Swedish krona	2.2545	2.2928	2.21	2.2712
British pound	0.3987	0.4023	0.38	0.4025
Norwegian krone	0.4328	0.4418	0.43	0.4389
Denmark krone	0.4885	0.4927	0.48	0.4895
Finland mark	0.6124	0.6210	0.60	0.6168
Canadian dollar	2.1581	2.1854	2.12	2.1733
Australian dollar	2.3282	2.3558	2.28	2.3403
S. African rand	0.6392	0.6510	0.61	0.6458
Belgian franc (10)	0.5259	0.5390	0.51	0.5330
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7016	2.7336	2.65	2.7261
Italian lire (1000)	1.5281	1.5536	1.49	1.5427
Jordanian dinar	-	-	4.16	4.42
Egyptian pound	-	-	0.86	0.90
ECU	3.8273	3.8784	-	-
Irish punt	4.0322	4.0880	4.00	4.0574
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2925	2.2943	2.25	2.2752

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

(מטרה) TARGET FUND Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 13.12.94

Purchase Price: 132.54

Redemption Price: 130.40

leumi pia מלומי פיה

PRIME מ"פ Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 13.12.94

Purchase Price: 96.07

Redemption Price: 94.63

leumi pia מלומי פיה

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0160	Change
Sterling	NIS 4.7120	+0.12%
Mark	NIS 1.9194	+0.04%

INFLATION MARKETS

INFLATION MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Value	Change
DJ Industrial	3799.59	+24.25
DJ 30	1282.11	+10.30
DJ 100	1282.11	+10.30
NYSE Index	319.21	+2.44
NYSE Transp.	215.28	+2.44
NYSE Comp.	215.28	+2.44
S&P 500	422.18	+3.28
AMEX Comp.	422.18	+3.28

Other stock market indexes

Index	Value	Change
FTSE 100	2660.5	+34.8
Tokyo Nikkei	19801.4	+17.25
Hong Kong Hang Seng	10133.3	+17.7
Israel Index	1013.3	+17.2

Israeli stocks in NY

Stock	Price	Change
Ami	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1

INFLATION MARKETS

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INFLATION MARKETS

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Company	Price	Change
Ami	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1

Two-sided trading

Company	Price	Change
Ami	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1

Market upbeat on relatively high turnover

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Index	Value	Change
Two-Sided Index	175.67	+0.92%
Maof Index	176.09	+0.85%
Karam Index	155.73	+2.73%

THE market turned buoyant for the second day running as prices rose on a wide front yesterday. The Two-Sided Index rose 0.9 percent, the Maof 0.8% and the Karam - taking its cue from the previous day's rise - closed 2.7% higher.

Turnover was somewhat higher than usual, at NIS 124.5 million. The Karam market contributed NIS 46m.

The rise in the total turnover was particularly significant, because the mutual funds are no longer beset by the sizeable redemptions of the last two months.

The past two months' low turnovers, in fact included sales of securities by the mutual funds. Once these sales stopped, the surplus demand for shares appeared.

The most noticeable fact about the rises was their breadth - 85 declines to 799 rises.

On the Two-Sided market, there were eight rises for each decline.

As on Monday, there were a few securities which posted sharp increases - Mivtah Shamir rose 6%, Mashov 5.9%, Kavei Ashrai 6.4%, TAT 5.1%, ILDC 6.3% and Gabelet increased 10%.

Money managers were the most active elements in the trading, buying practically everything in sight.

Koor was much in demand, with a high turnover of NIS 7 million and declined 1%. The effect of the postponement of the Tadiran issue on the NYSE may have influenced investors' views of the security.

Israel Chemicals was up 1.1% on a turnover of NIS 4.2m. The most interesting developments were in the Karam, which seems to be experiencing a rebirth. The rise in turnovers and the sharp increases in its index are an indication of the return of investors to that market.

Some of these securities have been hacked to a small percent-

age of their book value. Some of them are not worth much, but quite a few securities represent companies with good results, a decent book value and potential.

As long as the market was under the influence of the mutual funds selling indiscriminately, there was nothing that could be done.

Yet some investors have been discreetly buying securities on that market.

Notice that the gap between the Karam and the Two-Sided is now 12% in favor of the Two-Sided. Not so long ago, it was still 25% in favor of the Two-Sided. A year ago, it was slightly more than 40% in favor of the Karam.

The problem is, of course, that the fundamentals of the Karam market are still poor. There are enough corporations which have the kind of profitability which may make them attractive to the average investor.

So far, it will remain the domain of the money manager and the small investor, should he return to the market. The institutionalists are not too eager to re-enter that market.

The big question is the CPI, due to be announced today. Should it be high, and high means anything more than 1%-1.1%, the nervousness of investors might return.

There is particular concern that the Bank of Israel might again raise interest rates.

The next hurdle is the return of the Prime Minister from his tour of Southeast Asia, when he is due to announce his position on the issue of the capital gains tax.

The popular bet is that the index is likely to be reasonably high and the rate most often mentioned in TASE corridors is 1.4%, which is definitely high.

Rabin's position is anybody's guess. There is concern he may have painted himself into a corner, losing face and prestige whatever he does. We should be smarter at this time next week.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Company	Price	Change
Ami	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1
Ami P	4.375	+0.1

FTSE rises 34 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - London shares surged to close solidly higher as fresh signs of takeover bidding interest in the British power sector and strong gains on Wall Street helped the market close on an upbeat note. The FTSE 100 index closed at 2,980.6 up 34.2 points.

PARIS - Euro Disney stole the limelight on the Paris Bourse with French shares in general closing higher due to a technical correction to recent falls. The CAC-40 index closed up 12.91 points or 0.67 percent to 1,930.02.

ZURICH - Swiss shares closed higher in moderately active trade. Today's U.S. consumer price data had little impact. Prices reacted only moderately to the data. The Broad SPI index closed up 6.62 points to 1,694.53.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks closed firmer as buying by Dai-ichi Mutual Life Insurance Co in late morning trade helped buoy prices. A rebound in Japan tobacco Inc also gave some relief to investors, although the rise was small. The 225-share Nikkei average closed up 56.01 points, or 0.30%, at 18,931.49.

HONG KONG - Shares closed higher for a second day as late European institutional buying overcame bad news from the local property market. The Hang Seng index was up 147.60 points, or 1.88 percent, to 7,997.35.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market closed firmer on good volume after the Reserve Bank moved to raise official cash rates by one percentage point to 7.5 percent. The All Ordinaries index ended 11.1 points, or 0.60%, up at 1,863.8.

JOHANNESBURG - Gold shares climbed off lows in afternoon trade to end mildly softer after bullion rose to \$379 an ounce, but other stocks remained depressed amid a lack of buyers.

Stocks end sharply higher

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks racked up strong gains yesterday as good news on inflation eased fears that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates again at its policy-setting meeting next week.

The Dow Jones Industrial average closed up 30.95 points at 3,746.29. The Consumer Price Index for November rose 0.3 percent, which was in line with Wall Street expectations.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FF
MARK	2.4467/07	158.56/71	2.0713/38	5.4430/15
STERLING	1.5835/48	0.6381/87	1.3228/44	5.3888/54
YEN	1.1815/28	0.4822/28	75.53/53	4.0731/84
SFR	0.2889/02	0.1183/84	18.52/52	0.2482/55
FF	0.2889/02	0.1183/84	18.52/52	0.2482/55

Zimbabwe captain: 'We'll win'

SYDNEY (AP) — Zimbabwe is already out of contention for a place in the final of the quadrangular World Series tournament, but captain Andy Flower is adamant his team can beat England in a day-night game today at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

England improved its record to 1-1 with a morale-boosting 31-run victory over Australia A in Melbourne on Tuesday night, but Flower still believes his team can cause an upset.

The Zimbabweans will be at full strength for the first time in the tournament, further boosting Flower's optimism.

The Zimbabwe skipper said his team's improved middle-order performance against Australia A in Adelaide on Saturday had relieved pressure from himself and his brother Grant — who had been the only two consistent performers.

England will definitely be without allrounder Craig White — the Man-of-the-Match against Australia A — because White is troubled by a painful pulled muscle in his left side.

With White on the casualty list are: Joey Benjamin (chicken pox), captain Mike Atherton (back), Phillip DeFreitas (groin and calf), Alec Stewart (knee), John Crawley (calf), Graham Thorpe (calf) and Darren Gough (hamstring).

DEREK FATTAL
and ORI LEWIS

A SUPERB equalizing goal by Ronnie Rosenthal in the 83rd minute — his third in as many national team efforts — saw Israel gain a very respectable 1-1 draw against Romania in its European Nations' Championship Group 1 qualifier at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan yesterday.

The game ended with the packed terraces awash with banners and flags as the home fans chanted and paid homage to heroes Rosenthal and super sub Itzik Zohar, the architects of a great team performance. For the success-starved locals, the final whistle was a poignant moment that all who witnessed the match will savor.

Romania leads Group 1 with eight points, ahead of Israel on goal difference. France is two points adrift. All three are unbeaten.

The capacity 44,000 crowd saw a lively match in which both teams produced constructive, attacking soccer and stout defending. The result did justice to both sides.

After a scoreless first half, the visitors drew first blood as Marius Lacatus scored in the 70th minute.

The Romanians, one of Europe's strongest sides and World Cup quarter-finalists last sum-

mer, had been favored to grab the win and all three points, but Israel was not ready to relinquish its share of the Group 1 lead. The national squad still has a realistic chance of qualifying for the finals of the competition in England '96.

The Israelis opened the game in a positive mood, passing the ball confidently in midfield. Within four minutes, Romanian goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea had to perform his first save of the match as Ronen Harazi shot crisply from the left.

The visitors realized that they needed to take command and raise their game. Marius Lacatus was dispossessed in the area as he was setting up to shoot in the eighth minute. Ilie Dumitrescu threatened next, seizing on a slip-up by the home defense, but Bonnie Ginsburg adeptly tipped the Tottenham striker's shot over the bar.

By the end of the first 15 minutes, the traffic was one way as Barcelona midfielder maestro Gheorghe Hagi marshaled a wave of attacking moves, pinning the Israelis in their own territory.

The Romanians looked confident as Hagi sprayed the ball around with the degree of ease that is the hallmark of the game's great players.

Captain Nir Klinger cleared to deny Dorinel Munteanu in the 19th minute, while Hagi's at-

tempt three minutes later was parried out of play by Ginsburg.

The Israelis looked to have weathered the best that the Romanians could throw at them and began to claw their way back into the match. In the 34th minute, Eyal Berkowitz sent a perfect pass through the Romanian defense to Rosenthal. To howls of protest from the crowd the linesman flagged for offside.

Hagi quickly responded with a vicious shot which had Ginsburg diving at full stretch to save.

There was a clear sense of satisfaction on the terraces as the hosts went into the tunnel at the end of the opening period, on even terms with a side valued at over \$20 million.

The sense of caution that characterized the first half, vanished as both sides went out to try and capture all three points after the break.

The fight took up a feverish tempo, with the Israelis tending to hold the advantage against their more illustrious opponents. Revivo came close in the 63rd minute and the pressure on the Romanian backs caused Gheorghe Popescu to join Marco Balbul in the notebook of referee Antonio Navarrete in the 63rd minute.

Three minutes later Ion Vladou caused Israeli hearts to but slammed the ball into the side netting from close range.



HEADING FOR THE PROMISED LAND — Ronnie Rosenthal heads toward the Romanian goal with defender Daniel Prodan in hot pursuit. (Hanochi Gutman)

With the Israelis at their most potent, the visitors seized a goal on the break. Vladou received a clearance upfield, held off two defenders then found Lacatus. The Steaua Bucharest midfielder beat Alon Harazi's challenge on the left flank then moved forward with just Ginsburg to beat. The Israeli keeper came off his line to narrow the angle and Lacatus lobbed the ball over Ginsburg to give his side a 70th-minute lead.

The goal took some of the pace out of the game and the Roma-

nians concentrated their forces to hold onto their advantage.

Midfielder Constantin Galca came on for Dumitrescu, while Shlomo Scharf threw his trump card Itzik Zohar into the fray in place of defender Ronnie Levy.

In the 83rd minute, Zohar beat two men and released a well-weighted ball into the path of Rosenthal. The Israeli beat the Romanian defender to the ball, entered the area and saw his shot carry beyond the reach of Stelea with the help of a deflection.

In other European Nations' qualifiers yesterday, Germany beat Moldova 3-0 and Georgia held off Albania 1-0 (Group 7). Finland stopped San Marino 4-1 (Group 8). Switzerland topped Turkey 2-1 (Group 3) and Norway edged Malta 1-0 (Group 5). European Nations' Championship qualifying group 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Romania	4	2	0	0	7	3
Israel	4	2	0	0	4	3
France	4	1	3	0	2	0
Poland	3	1	1	1	4	2
Slovenia	3	0	2	1	4	2
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	4	0	8

Next matches: March 29 — Romania v Poland, Israel v France, Slovenia v Azerbaijan.

Hap Eilat whips Peristeri to even Korac Cup mark

HAPOEL Eilat raised its Korac Cup record to 2-2 last night with an 88-76 win over hosts Peristeri.

Brian Rowsom led the visitors with 21 points, followed by Ari Rosenberg's 20 and Andrew Kennedy's 18.

Willie Sims was ejected late in the second half when he came to the aid of teammate Nir Matalon who had been set upon by several Greek players. His ejection car-

ries an automatic one-game Korac Cup ban.

By virtue of the win played before 2,000 fans and approximately 500 thrown coins, the Eilat is now in second place in their four-team group behind Caceres (3-1) whom they will face in Spain on January 4. Peristeri (2-2) and Stefanel Milano (1-3) round out the group. The top two teams advance to the quarter-finals.

Close to deadline, players ready to make proposal

RYE BROOK, NY (AP) — After 15½ hours of meetings, baseball owners said early yesterday that the players would make a new proposal when talks were scheduled to resume later in the day.

Whether the players would come up with something that will convince owners not to impose a salary cap today, however, was uncertain.

"It depends on how serious the proposal is. I hope it's very serious and leads to a resolution," Colorado Rockies chairman Jerry McMorris said.

For the second straight day, discussions went well past midnight. But the sides remained stalemated over a luxury tax, even while the union discussed the possibility of trading salary arbitration for earlier free agency.

The owners are to meet today in Chicago, and management negotiator John Harrington has said if there isn't a deal by then, the teams will declare an impasse and impose a salary cap. McMorris said it would be up to acting commissioner Bud Selig, owner of the Milwaukee Brewers, to decide how to proceed.

The union would challenge the

imposed salary cap before the National Labor Relations Board, leading to months of litigation and the possibility teams would open the 1995 season with replacement players.

Eugene Orza, the union's No. 2 official, said players were willing to meet as long as owners wanted to get together, so talks continued into the night. But two sources — one from each side — said nothing had been accomplished during Tuesday's discussions.

The sides discussed their goal in the negotiations during Monday night's meeting, according to one source. McMorris said players didn't offer a counterproposal during the morning session, but a union official, speaking on the condition he not be identified, said players talked about what movement they were willing to make and restated that they never would agree to a cap.

The owners, according to another source, made a general expression in the first meeting that they would be willing to make players unrestricted free agents after four years if the union would agree to the elimination of salary arbitration and a cap.

Burton outscores teammates with 53-point splurge

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Willie Burton, released earlier this season by the Miami Heat, got sweet revenge Tuesday as he scored a career-high 53 points against his old team to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 105-90 victory.

Burton's total was the highest in the NBA this season. It also set a Spectrum scoring record, surpassing the 52 points scored by Michael Jordan in 1988.

Burton, who played four seasons for the Heat, signed with the 76ers as a free agent on November 8.

He made 12 of 19 field goals, including five of eight 3-pointers, and a franchise-record 24 of 28 free throws.

Lakers 115, Mavericks 108
In Dallas, Nick Van Exel hit four of his eight 3-pointers down the stretch and matched a career high with 35 points.

Vlade Divac's 3-point play with 6:45 remaining snuffed a 96-96 tie, then Van Exel connected on 3-pointers in successive possessions to push the Lakers' lead to 107-102 with 3:57 left.

Van Exel was 8-for-16 from 3-point range and added 10 assists.

The Mavericks played the second half without power forward Roy Tarpley, who was subsequently suspended without pay for insubordination.

Bulls 98, Pistons 78
Scottie Pippen and Toni Kukoc got hot just in time to rescue hometown Chicago from a horrific third quarter, and the Bulls went on to defeat depleted Detroit.

Pippen finished with 31 points and Kukoc a career-high 28 as the Bulls beat the Pistons for the second time in three games by an average of 20½ points.

Joe Dumars and Terry Mills had 16 points each for Detroit, playing without injured Grant Hill, Lindsey Hunter and Oliver Miller. The Pistons, who committed 28 turnovers, are scoring only 84 points a game during a four-game losing streak.

Rockets 93, Bulls 85
Otis Thorpe had 27 points and 14

rebounds as Houston led virtually the entire game, then turned back a Bulls rally.

The Bulls, down by 17 in the third period, made a fourth-quarter run, outscoring the hosts 9-0 during a mid-quarter spur to trim the Houston lead to just 77-71.

Kings 112, Warriors 107
Brian Grant scored 13 of his 15 points in the fourth period, helping Sacramento gain command and beat Golden State, losers of seven straight.

Mitch Richmond's 29 points led the Kings, who beat the Warriors in Oakland for only the second time in four years. Olden Polynice had 20 as the Kings improved to 11-8, their best start since 1982-83.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
Philadelphia 105, Miami 90
Charlotte 107, Milwaukee 101
Atlanta 84, Minnesota 83 (OT)
Cleveland 96, Indiana 83
L.A. Lakers 115, Dallas 108
Chicago 98, Detroit 78
Houston 93, Washington 85
Sacramento 112, Golden State 107

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	12	6	.667	—
Utah	12	8	.600	1.5
Denver	10	7	.588	2
Dallas	9	8	.529	3
San Antonio	9	9	.500	3.5
Minnesota	3	16	.168	10

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	14	5	.737	—
Seattle	12	6	.667	1.2
L.A. Lakers	12	8	.600	2
Sacramento	11	8	.579	3
Portland	9	8	.529	4
Golden State	8	12	.400	6.5
L.A. Clippers	2	17	.105	12

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	15	4	.789	—
New York	11	7	.611	3.5
Boston	9	11	.450	6.5
Philadelphia	8	11	.421	7
New Jersey	9	13	.409	7.5
Washington	6	11	.353	8
Miami	6	13	.316	8.5

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	12	8	.600	—
Cleveland	12	8	.600	—
Charlotte	10	9	.526	2.5
Chicago	10	9	.526	2.5
Albany	9	11	.450	4
Detroit	6	11	.353	8
Memphis	6	13	.316	8.5

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'New-look' Russians are coming

BRIAN FREEMAN

HOW times have changed! It was not so long ago that a game against the Russians was the talk of the town. In the collective memory of this country, few events match the excitement surrounding Maccabi Tel Aviv's 91-79 victory over CSKA Moscow in 1977.

Not only did the victory "put us on the map," in Tel Brody's immortal words, it was the moment when Maccabi transcended sport to become a symbol of Jewish triumph.

Tonight, however, Moscow's appearance at Yad Eliyahu is just another game in the quest to reach the Final Four of the European Club Championships.

Back then, there was no mistaking the role of politics in the matchup. One of the first signs of glasnost affecting Israel was the 1988 Kremlin decision — a year before the Soviets allowed Jews to emigrate en masse — to allow CSKA Moscow to host Maccabi and then play in Tel Aviv. (Previously the games were played in a neutral site in Europe because the Soviets refused to host Maccabi or allow its teams to play in Israel.)

There was such an interest in these contests that the Israel Electric Corporation, knowing that practically every TV in the country would be on at game time, requested that people refrain from using other electrical appliances during the match so as not to overload the national grid.

This season is CSKA's first appearance in the championships' final pool in six years, as the disarray following the collapse of the Soviet Union also affected sports.

Moscow shocked Antibes in the preliminaries to reach the final pool and became the surprise team in Group A with three straight victories over Benfica Lisbon, PAOK Salonika and Panathinaikos.

However, Moscow has since lost two in a row — at Real Madrid and at home to Scavolini Pesaro.

The club, coached by former CSKA point guard Stenislav Yarinaz, is talented and young, with its nucleus an average age of 24. Although CSKA leads

the Russian league with a 9-0 record, all its famous stars are gone. Moscow now has the ultimate in balanced scoring, with five players averaging double figures.

The team is centered around three members of the Russian national squad that won the silver medal at last summer's World Championships in Toronto — Evgeny Kissurine (25, 2.06 meters), Sergui Panov (24, 2.03m) and Vassilij Karashev (23, 1.96m).

Kissurine leads the club in scoring with a 17.0 average. His 21-point performance against Benfica Lisbon in the opening game was the highest point total for a CSKA player in the championships. Panov knocks down 13.6 points a contest and is a defensive gem with an average of 2.8 steals. Karashev is the third leading scorer at 12.6.

The team's main outside threat is Igor Koukeldin, who averages 11.6 points and is 38.2% from three-point range.

Another major change at CSKA is the employment of foreign players for the first time — center Patrick Eddie (27, 2.08m) and point guard Chuck Evans (23, 1.78m).

Evans scores 10 points a game and hands out 6.6 assists, while Eddie is the main force under the boards, averaging 6.0 rebounds and 8.8 points.

Coach Yarinaz says Moscow's recent slump may be attributable to fatigue suffered by the national team members, who have participated in the World Championships and the European National preliminaries in addition to all the club games.

Maccabi, 2-3, has problems of its own. Norris Coleman has a stiff neck and Radislav Curcic has not been feeling well and did not practice much this week.

But coming off a victory over Olimpija Ljubljana and another over Hapoel Tel Aviv in the league, it has a good opportunity at home to get back in the pack in the championships.

Maccabi holds an all-time 6-3 record against CSKA Moscow in the championships. The game will be shown live on Channel 1 at 8:40 p.m.

Holyfield will make whole-hearted return

SANTA MONICA (AP) — Two-time heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield will make his return to the ring March 25 in China against former WBA champion Mike Weaver.

Holyfield, 32, who lost his WBA and IBF heavyweight titles in a 12-round decision to Michael Moorer last April, retired briefly

when he was diagnosed with a minor heart problem.

But after a recent battery of tests, Holyfield has received medical clearance to return to the ring and attempt to capture his third heavyweight title.

The fight to take place in Beijing, is being billed as "The Brave At The Wall II — The Return."

In 1993, Weaver won the WBA heavyweight title from Bert Cooper in a third-round KO in the first card at Beijing to take place in 45 years.

Also scheduled on the card are six-time champion Thomas Hearns, four-time champ Alexis Arguello and two-time champ Bobby Czyz.

British runner banned for testosterone use

LONDON (Reuters) — British runner Diane Modahl was banned for four years yesterday when a British Athletic Federation (BAF) disciplinary committee upheld a laboratory finding that she had tested positive for the male hormone testosterone.

The former Commonwealth 800-meters champion tested positive for excessive levels of testosterone at a meeting in Lisbon on June 18. She is the first British woman track and field athlete to fail a doping test.

She is ineligible to compete in the United Kingdom and abroad for four years from June 18, 1994.

The finding is subject to any appeal Modahl might bring under BAF or IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) rules.

Modahl was flown home early from the Victoria Commonwealth Games in August after the results of the test were revealed and suspended pending the BAF hearing which opened on Tuesday.

The statement said Modahl's representatives had argued that "there was degradation of the sample."

"It was also argued that there was failure by the laboratory in Lisbon to observe good laboratory practices. By reason of this failure it was argued on her behalf that there was a real doubt as to whether the tests were fair and reliable."

"The committee was satisfied that the specimen tested was that of Mrs Modahl. There was no suggestion of tampering. The committee considered very carefully the issue of degradation and its possible effects."

Kfar Hamaccabiah wins mixed fours

NORMAN SPIRO

THE 10th annual mixed fours round robin competition, sponsored by Anglo-Saxon Real Estate Agency, was concluded last week at the Ramat Gan bowls Club.

In a 34-team contest, the Kfar Hamaccabiah side of Michal Farkash, Chaya Prager, Carmel Scop, and Zvi Bekier won the final 20-12, against the Ramat Gan foursome of Arye Keren, Tami Kamzel, Alex Harpaz and Leah Akerman. The latter had kept level at 11-all at the 13th end, but then lost a five and a four, which put the seal on the game.

Third place went to the Kfar side of Sam Skudowitz, Hanita Hertogs, Ivan Melman, and Rena Wexler, who won on an extra end against the Sayon team of Micki Kupferschmid, Amir Yaron, Rima Sinder and Yael Bat-Ner.

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